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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19677

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1997

ISSUE NO. 5000

Maccabiah tragedy: The mourning after

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IDF arrests Hamas cell, puts out kidnap alert

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel is maintaining its closure of the Palestinian cities in the West Bank amid rumors Arab groups may try to kidnap a soldier to win the release of Palestinian policemen captured on their way to carry out attacks against Jewish settlers.

The General Security Service, meanwhile, has arrested 16 members of a Hamas terrorist cell suspected of carrying out a number of attacks along the Trans-Samaria Highway, the army said. Two soldiers and four civilians were wounded in those attacks.

They also planned further attacks against soldiers and civilians, and following their interrogation, Israeli security agents located a large amount of homemade explosives, the army said.

The army said that during the interrogation of the Hamas cell it turned out that one of the members had been in the final stages of planning an attack along the highway, but was captured the day before he was to have carried it out.

See IDF, Page 10

PA security failures hamper US efforts

By HILAL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The Palestinian Authority's shortcomings on security and other matters are constraining the administration's ability to argue before Capitol Hill for extending legislation allowing for American-Palestinian relations, a senior US official said yesterday.

"Yes, it's a more difficult effort, without question," the official said. "The pressures are greater on the Hill than before, there are more questions from the Hill than before, and the effort to sustain the process is more difficult than before."

See FAILURE, Page 14

7 Arad Festival figures to be indicted

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The state attorney has decided to press charges of negligent manslaughter against seven persons involved in the Arad Festival disaster in July 1995, in which three teenagers were trampled to death.

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Eilat 7:19 p.m.	8:23 p.m.



509007



Oy vey's Mir

Controllers use a model of the Mir space station to pinpoint problems yesterday at the Mission Control Center near Moscow. The embattled Mir lost almost all power. Story, Page 6 (AP)

Parties trade blame for bridge collapse

Blame was shifted from player to player yesterday afternoon when police organized a confrontation between those responsible for constructing the bridge that collapsed at the opening of the Maccabiah Games, killing two.

Yehoshua Ben-Ezra and Baruch Karagula, partners in the Ben-Ezra Construction company, told police that they had complied with all the instructions of engineer Micha Bar-Ilan, who gave final authorization for the bridge.

Bar-Ilan denied this, saying the company had not followed his directions and had not carried out the tests he demanded. He added that a guard had not been placed by the bridge as required to ensure the

maximum number of people permitted on the bridge was not exceeded.

Ben-Ezra and Karagula's lawyer, Yoram Halevi, reiterated charges that police had weakened the pedestrian-only bridge by taking vehicles over it.

Police said in a statement that no police vehicles crossed the bridge on the eve of the accident.

Adam Mishori, of Irgun, denied that his company had been involved in the actual construction of the bridge that buckled Monday night when the Australian delegation walked across, sending dozens of athletes sliding 25 feet down into the polluted waters of the Yarkon River. Two people were killed and 64 people were injured. Two

remained in serious condition yesterday. Mishori said his company had assigned the building of the span to Ben-Ezra.

The leader of the Australian team told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday that he must do everything possible to find those responsible.

"First the tragedy came, then shock, then came grief and sorrow, then, Mr. Prime Minister, anger starts to seep through — the anger, Mr. Prime Minister, because it should not have happened," said team leader Tom Gold.

Netanyahu said there is no excuse for the collapse of the bridge, a temporary aluminum-and-wood structure. (News agencies)

Levy to Arafat: Uproot PA Police terror

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy is making a proposed meeting in Brussels on Monday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat conditional on his uprooting terrorist elements that allegedly have penetrated the Palestinian Police.

In a grave reaction to the arrest of three Palestinian Police officers in Nablus this week by IDF troops on suspicion of being on a mission to kill Jews, Levy asked European Union peace envoy Miguel Moratinos to inform Arafat of his concern about terrorists infiltrating the police to murder Israeli civilians.

Levy's demarche was preceded by a secret meeting in Gaza between Arafat and General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon, the purpose of which, as reported by Channels 1 and 2, was to advise the Palestinian leader of the seriousness with which Israel views his police officers' alleged involvement in terrorism.

Foreign Ministry sources

believe at least one other Palestinian policeman was linked to this particular terrorist plot and that there may be a network of conspirators based in various cities under the PA's jurisdiction.

Levy told Moratinos of his "fear that this may not be a local episode, confined to a single city," but rather a "widespread" underground using the Palestinian Police as its cover. He told the Spanish diplomat that it is "extremely grave that armed police intended to murder Jews."

Following the arrest of the three policemen, Levy postponed a scheduled meeting of Israel's chief delegates to the nine commissions created by the Oslo Accords to deal with such issues as water, trade, and transport.

After conferring with Moratinos, Arafat reportedly asked him to inform Levy that he did not know about the police officers' alleged involvement in attacks against Israelis and that he has ordered a comprehensive investigation of the matter.

Upon learning that the PA intends

to take every step necessary to investigate the incident and to prevent its spreading, Levy said he hopes the three policemen were not fulfilling orders from Arafat, the Ilim news agency said.

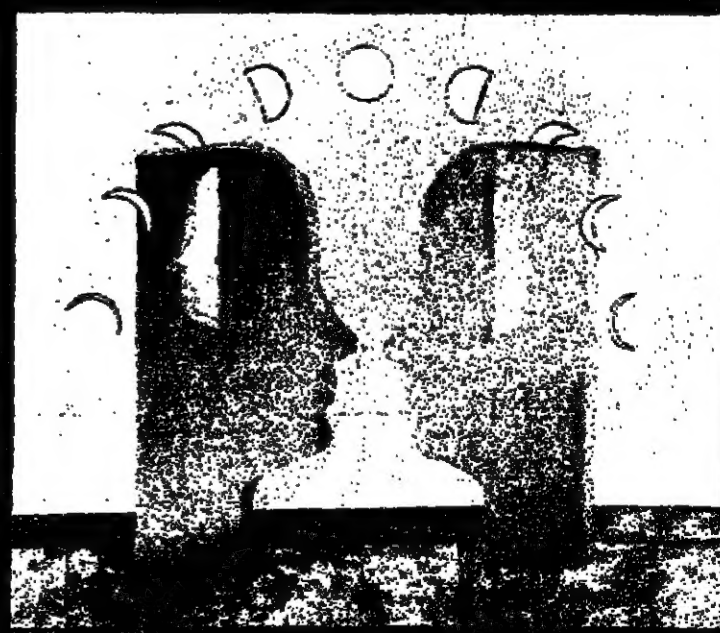
"Let us not get into a situation in which, on the one hand, we are working together to advance the peace process and on the other there is a bomb ticking beneath the entire structure," Levy was quoted by Ilim.

The issue of the three Palestinian Police officers also was brought up by Levy at a meeting yesterday with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny.

Bassiouny was reported as saying he is certain Arafat is not behind this affair, based on having known Arafat "for many years."

The urgency with which Israel views the arrest of the three police officers also was stressed at a meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and US Ambassador Martin Indyk at the Egyptian envoy's home in Herzliya on Tuesday evening.

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NEWS

in brief

Rubinstein petitions against Hamas convict parole

In an unusual step, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to block the early release of a Hamas terrorist, saying this would endanger the public.

Hassin Abu-Sakran, of Jebel Mukaber, was due to be released yesterday from Shata Prison. He was sentenced in 1993 to seven years' imprisonment and three years' suspended for firebombing two cars in East Talpote and throwing firebombs at border policemen and civilians.

Justice Dalia Dorner issued an interim injunction preventing the release until the petition is heard.

Itim

Meretz leaders reject two capitals proposal

The Meretz executive yesterday rejected a proposal to change the party platform and call for Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel and of a Palestinian state. MK Anat Maor, MK Dedi Zucker, and former Ratz chairman Zehava Galon presented the proposal, which was defeated 21 to 13. The party council will have the final say on the issue in a vote on Thursday.

Itim

IDF gets new surgeon-general

Col. Dr. Arieh Eldad was appointed the IDF's new surgeon-general yesterday, taking over from Brig.-Gen. Yehoshua "Shuki" Shemer. Eldad, the son of Lehi fighter Israel Prize winner Israel Eldad, was deputy surgeon-general and commanded the field hospital sent by the IDF to Rwanda in 1995. He is to be promoted to brigadier-general.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Man drowns in Zichron Ya'acov

A 25-year-old man drowned yesterday evening while swimming at the Zichron Ya'acov beach. The beach was closed to bathers.

Itim

Grandfather killed on way to grandson's bar mitzva

Alexander Yospov, 64, of Ofakim, was killed yesterday in a car accident in Netivot while on the way to celebrate his grandson's bar mitzva at the site of the Baba Sali's grave in Netivot.

Yospov's son, who was driving when the car collided with a commercial vehicle, was arrested on suspicion of not obeying a yield sign, which allegedly caused the accident. Two other members of Yospov's family were hurt in the crash.

Itim

Rights group lobbies for Arabic road signs

Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, has petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the Public Works Department and the National Infrastructure Ministry to add Arabic names and directions to interurban road signs.

The petition notes that Arabic is one of the country's official languages and that most road signs are written only in Hebrew and English. It cites a Technion study which says that Arabic road signs are essential, since many Arabic-speaking drivers do not understand the other signs.

Batsheva Tsar



Cordial meeting

Foreign Minister David Levy (right) yesterday welcomes Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

(Ariel Jeronimski)

Golan residents mark 30 years of settlement

By DAVID RUDGE

Golan Heights residents celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Jewish communities in the region yesterday with a festive happening that drew politicians from all the main parties to Katrin.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was given a warm reception, told residents that they would be able to remain in their homes for years to come.

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak, who also attended the celebration, was booed when he said he would not relate to the question of the depth of any future withdrawal before knowing what Israel would receive from the Syrians. He did say, however, that he would be willing to make concessions.

"This is a holiday for me and, as far as I'm concerned, for everybody in the country," said 67-year-old Uri Barak, who was among those who formed the nucleus of the original residents of Katrin.

Thousands of people flocked to the township last night for the

Moratinos optimistic about renewing talks with Syria

Syrian President Hafez Assad is taking a "positive" approach to the prospective renewal of peace talks with Israel, according to European Union Peace Envoy Miguel Moratinos, who informed Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday of the substance of his latest meeting with the Syrian leader in Damascus.

A Defense Ministry communiqué said Moratinos was optimistic about the possibility that the negotiations, which were suspended in early 1996, can be resumed. He was quoted as saying he received positive messages from Assad on this subject and pledged EU support once the long-truncated contacts are reopened.

Mordechai told the EU envoy: "We must return to the negotiating table and sit opposite one another at eye level [and communicate] as people and not by means of pieces of paper."

Jay Bushinsky

central event - a light and sound show depicting the history of the Golan Heights and Jewish settlement over the centuries.

"The Golan Heights is not just my home, it is also the key to Israel's security and to part of its water sources, as well as its roots in Jewish history," Barak said.

Ma'aleh Gamla, was equally enthusiastic about the anniversary celebrations and rejected arguments of those who maintain that Jewish residents on the Golan represent an obstacle to peace.

"My home is here and the celebrations are proof that we are here and here to stay - that we are part of the continuation of Jewish settlement on the Golan that goes back over 3,000 years," Segov said.

"I certainly don't see us as an obstacle to any real and lasting peace. On the contrary, the main obstacle is the unrealistic demands of the Syrians in general and President [Hafez] Assad in particular."

"The Syrians used the Golan Heights twice to attack Israel and for hitting our communities, whereas we have helped develop the land and made it blossom in peace," she said.

Maria Van Meter, a member of Kibbutz Afik on the southern reaches of the Golan Heights, said many residents were experiencing a renewed sense of purpose after "four years of uncertainty under the previous administration."

"The cloud has been lifted and we have been given a breathing space which is expressed in the way that individual residents are taking more care of their gardens and expanding their homes," said Van Meter, a member of the Golan Residents Committee.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Khalani, leader of The Third Way party which was formed primarily to retain Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, also was among the guests at the celebration in Katrin last night.

Hizbullah angered by monitoring panel findings

By DAVID RUDGE

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday called on the combatants in southern Lebanon to show restraint and help ease the tension in the region.

The call was made after a marathon 14-hour meeting of the five-nation committee that was established to supervise the understandings that ended the cross-border fighting last April.

The monitoring group, which discussed complaints from Israel and Lebanon over recent incidents along Israel's northern border, reminded the authorities of the need to avoid involving civilians.

The committee warned about "cycles of action and reaction that could erode the understandings."

It was the strongest plea yet from the monitoring group to Hizbullah, the IDF, and its South Lebanese Army ally to adhere to the Grapes of Wrath agreements.

It follows a marked escalation in fighting in the region in which three Lebanese civilians were killed by IDF and SLA fire, another civilian was wounded by Hizbullah shelling, and Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds fell in the Galilee.

Lebanon complained to the monitoring group over the incidents in which two civilians were killed on the outskirts of Berti village, east of Sidon, and a farmer was killed by mistake by IDF tank fire while working in a field near his village inside the security zone.

Israel protested over the

Katyusha rockets that fell near Moshav Shomera in Western Galilee earlier this week and the wounding of a civilian during Hizbullah shelling of a village in the eastern sector of the security zone.

The monitoring group determined that the killing of the farmer, whether intentional or accidental, was a breach of the understandings. It said the deaths of two people near Berti were possibly an unintentional violation.

While the monitors said the wounding of the Lebanese civilian in the zone by Hizbullah was an unintentional violation, it stated the firing of Katyusha rockets into Israel, whatever the motivation, was a violation of the understandings.

Hizbullah Radio issued a statement yesterday criticizing the monitoring group for not condemning Israel for "killing Lebanese civilians." The English-language Beirut newspaper *The Daily Star* was also critical of what it called the "failure" of the monitoring group.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met last night with the outgoing co-chairman of the monitoring group, US State Department official David Greenley. Mordechai thanked Greenley for helping to establish the committee composed of representatives from America, France, Syria, Israel, and Lebanon.

He also stressed the importance of the committee's work in helping to prevent an "unnecessary deterioration in Lebanon."

14 suspected terrorists arrested in Hebron

By MARGOT DUKERWITZ

Security forces have arrested 14 terrorists in the Hebron area during the past week, suspected of involvement in terrorist attacks against IDF troops and Jews in Hebron.

The detained Palestinians come from the H2 area (under Israeli control) in Hebron as well as villages surrounding the city that are situated in Area B, under Israeli security control.

Two firebombs were thrown at Border Police troops in Hebron last night. No injuries were reported.

An Israeli civilian was lightly injured while driving by Deir Kadis village near Ramallah when stones were thrown at the civilian's car. IDF troops combed the area for the perpetrators.

The removal of cement blocks in Shalal Street by IDF troops on Wednesday night outraged Jews in Hebron, who claimed that it was too soon to ease restrictions after only four days of calm in the area. Hebron Jewish community spokesman David Wilder charged

yesterday that after a month of firebombs and shooting incidents in Hebron, the IDF was moving too quickly. "It is clear Arafat controls the situation, and decides when things should heat up in the area or remain calm," he said.

Yecheil Leiter, spokesman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza supported Wilder's charges, suggesting a "more prudent" approach should be taken. "The correct equation would be one week for every day of violence they cause," he added. The lifting of restrictions so soon will only serve to invite violence further down the line, he said.

IDF troops also dismantled roadblocks set up around Hebron originally aimed at preventing residents from surrounding villages from entering the town.

Since the appearance for the first time Monday of a large Palestinian Police contingent in Shalal Street, previously the site of intense fighting, there have been no reports of clashes between IDF troops, Border Police and Palestinian rioters.

Winning numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawings were the Ace of spades, Ace of hearts, 9 of diamonds and Jack of clubs. The results of the second draw were the Ace of spades, 8 of hearts, Queen of diamonds and King of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis

Hazak drawing, ticket number 259989 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 841648 won the cash. Tickets 149343, 211673, 128804, 789588, 665442, 516152, 825086, and 152412 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 71570, 61020, 94838, 57751, 23100, 15633, 66947, 40617, 8003, 55472, 15459, 28492, 6253, 08375, 19609, 33390, 2380, 53237, and 63152 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 864, 749, 28, and 541 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 14, 40, 77, and 79 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 96 at 21 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 1 and 8 won NIS 10.

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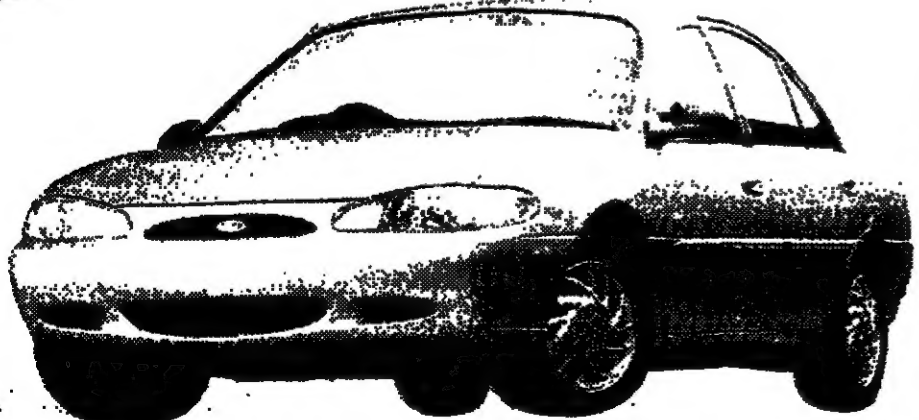
Shosh Grady, President of the World Federation of Polish Jews, returned to Israel this week, after visiting Poland and the local Jewish community, in connection with the return of public Jewish property in Poland.

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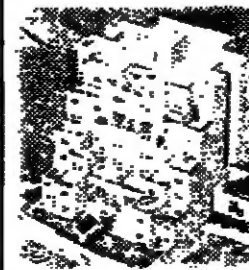
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Moment of silence

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center), Maccabi Israel president Uzi Netanel (left), and Maccabi International president Ronald Bakalarz observe a moment of silence yesterday at the Prime Minister's Office in memory of the two members of the Australian contingent who perished in the Maccabiah bridge collapse.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Netanyahu still swimming in shark-infested waters

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water," was the memorable promo for the sequel to the 1975 blockbuster shark movie, *Jaws*. The implication was clear: the sharks are still out there swimming.

That promo could be this government's theme song.

Not even a week after The Crisis was solved — after Ya'acov Ne'eman was named finance minister, David Levy was pacified and Silvan Shalom mollified — once again you turn on the radio and hear of yet another crisis, this time involving the National Religious Party.

There is a pattern to the government-crisis madness — most people don't know what the crises are about. One day it seems as if everything is rolling along smoothly, and then — seemingly out of the blue — one coalition party or the other is threatening to pull out of the government. That is the way it was with Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'aliya party a few weeks ago, the way it was with David Levy's Geshet, and the way it is now. "The government could fall over this issue," warned NRP director-general Zevulun Orlev, sounding distinctly like Maxim Levy or Sharansky. "This issue is more important for us

than settlements." The issue is the appointment of six new judges to the rabbinical courts. These appointments are patronage plums. "Our public is screaming that we do not have more rabbinical judges," said one NRP official. "It is a symbol. What are we any less knowledgeable in Torah than the haredim?"

The NRP is unhappy with the makeup of the committee that will appoint the judges, saying that — with the election this week of Degel Hatorah's Moshe Gafni in place of the NRP's late Avraham Stern — the balance will be tipped in favor of the haredim. The committee has already settled on its six candidates, five of whom are haredim, and now just needs to formally confirm them. Off the record, some NRP officials claim that Shas leader Aryeh Deri met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the peak of the coalition crisis earlier this month, and reached an agreement whereby Shas will get four of these positions, United Torah Judaism one, and the other left to the National Religious Party. The NRP is demanding parity.

But isn't halacha unified, Orlev is asked. What difference does it make what color kippa the rabbinical court judge is wearing? "They want to

push us away from the rabbinical establishment," Orlev said. "They want to push us away from the courts. They want to say that the national religious are good for science, or the army, but not for the rabbinical courts. But we say that not only haredim can be rabbinical court judges, or city rabbis."

The "they" in this equation, said Orlev, is the haredim, especially Shas. "They are trying to take over the courts, to appoint judges who are loyal to Rabbi Ovadia Yosef." "Nonsense," counters Shas MK David Vaknin. "The story [about Deri arranging matters with Netanyahu] is completely made up. The NRP should not preach to us, or we'll start keeping an account of their actions. Why is it that of 150 religious councils in the cities, 130 are controlled by the NRP? The judges have been chosen on their merits."

Vaknin was not overly concerned that the NRP would carry out its threat and leave the coalition over this issue. "They are not going to leave," he said. "They saw that everyone else — Geshet and Yisrael Ba'aliya — were being quarrelsome, so they wanted to do the same. But the NRP are the last ones who will leave the coalition. We [Shas] could join up with Labor. Tell me, where is the NRP going to go?"

NRP leaders back Knesset protest over rabbinical court dispute

By LIAT COLLINS

The National Religious Party Bureau which met in Tel Aviv yesterday announced its support for the parliamentary steps its MKs and ministers decided on this week. These include boycotting Knesset votes to protest the lack of rabbinical court judges affiliated with the national religious rather than the haredi outlook.

The party hopes to pressure the prime minister into using his influence to increase the numbers of rabbinical court judges trained in institutions with a National Religious approach. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, did not meet with NRP ministers yesterday to discuss the problem.

On Wednesday, six rabbinical court judges were named, only one of them not haredi.

Unless the issue is solved before Monday, the government could be seriously embarrassed

when several no-confidence motions come up. Although the motions need a majority of 61 MKs to pass, which they are unlikely to get, if the opposition gains a relative majority over the coalition in the absence of the NRP MKs, it will further harm the government's standing.

The party issued a statement after the meeting saying that the NRP is not interested in the Netanyahu government falling over a religious issue, as happened to a Labor government following the delivery of IAF fighter planes on a Friday night. However, the bureau authorized its MKs "to use all available parliamentary means until the issue of the election of Zionist rabbinical judges is resolved."

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy told reporters: "How can one stay in the government when it takes the spiritual basis of your existence and chops it down... Under the current conditions, we do not have partners."

NRP leader and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said a situation of "might is right" prevails in the coalition, but was more moderate. He conceded it would be problematic to bring down the government over the issue of rabbinical court judges, but noted governments had fallen over religious issues in the past.

He admitted that there is a feeling of every partner for itself in the current coalition, which is responsible for a series of coalition crises.

Hammer said all the coalition members, including the prime minister, are responsible for this.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi said he would not automatically rule out joining a Labor government led by Ehud Barak, but this line is not the dominant one in the NRP.

Michal Yudelman contributed to this report

Senate overwhelmingly passes foreign operations bill

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — The US Senate yesterday passed the 1998 foreign operations bill that contains Israel's \$3 billion foreign aid allocation by a 91-8 vote. Significantly, the bill restores the "earmarked" \$2.1 billion in military and economic assistance to Egypt that Senator Mitch McConnell had removed earlier this month.

It also contains an amendment removing the

president's authority to waive prohibitions on US business dealings with terrorist states.

The administration opposes the amendment because it would alienate Syria, one of seven states regularly appearing on the State Department's list of terrorism sponsors.

The House is due to vote on the bill next week, and then the two bills will be merged before again being voted on and sent to Clinton for approval.



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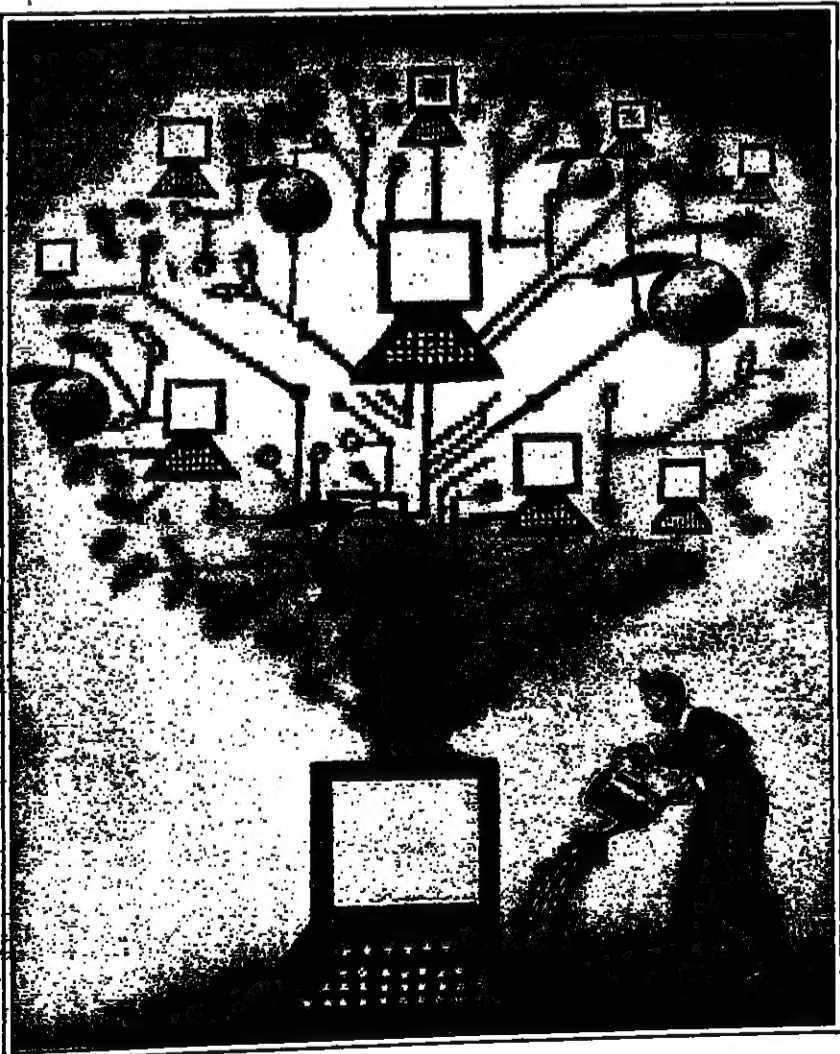
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THE JERUSALEM POST

F. DAVID RADLER, Chairman, Board of Directors
NORMAN SPECTOR, President & Publisher

Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION: The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone (02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527, CIRCULATION—02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING—02-531-5608,
02-531-5657-40, Fax 02-538-8408, TEL. AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) Telephone (03-6390333, Fax 03-6390277,
HAIFA: 20 Nordon, Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
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1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
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The way ahead

After narrowly surviving charges of tampering with the administration of justice, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has spent the past month dousing brushfires in his coalition. The experience has not been edifying.

Nearly third-rate individuals vying for ministerial office, political parties exacting their pound of flesh, and behavior reminiscent of kindergarten quarrels have put paid to any notion that direct election of the prime minister would cure what ails the Israeli body politic.

Although now the government looks secure from within — for the next few months at least — outside forces are busy fanning the flames of another fire. Far away from the ritualized violence on the streets of Hebron, the Palestinians this week rounded up the usual suspects at the United Nations General Assembly in condemnation of Israel. Pressure will continue to be placed on Netanyahu to make unilateral concessions, as if it were any less in the interest — and any less the responsibility — of the Palestinians to devise ways to restart the peace process.

The danger, of course, is that events in Hebron and elsewhere can easily spin out of control. It will be up to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to determine whether the conflict remains on a low flame; fodder for the television cameras and not the graveyards.

He will determine, too, when and whether to break the impasse in the peace process.

The first lesson a negotiator learns is never to paint oneself into a corner — unless one wants to be there. In the dispute over construction at Har Homa, both sides — Israel and the Palestinians — appear to have followed this lesson to a T.

Palestinians, because they are the weaker side, hope with the aid of the international community to force Israel to cease its building activity and extricate them from the corner. Netanyahu has placed his government's existence on the line on the sensitive issue of Jerusalem in order to resist such pressures. He has pledged not to halt construction of a housing project that was first approved by Yitzhak Rabin's government and that the Oslo agreement does not bar. He is determined put an end to the bargaining approach of his predecessors, which he has characterized as give and give.

Netanyahu could halt construction at Har Homa, but this would be a major new concession that Arafat would have to reciprocate — say by agreeing to skip the next phases of the interim agreement and proceeding directly to final status talks.

Alternatively, Arafat could turn a blind eye to the continuing construction, but Israel would have to compensate him with an especially generous redeployment on the West Bank that would significantly increase lands under Palestinian control.

It is not unusual in a negotiation for one side or the other to paint itself into a corner. It is unusual, however, for both sides to do so, particularly when neither has a better alternative to

no agreement. Neither side is prepared to pay the domestic price of the mutual concessions that would be required to break the logjam and move them out of the corner. The results are predictable — stalemate in the peace process — which makes the job of the Americans difficult, if not impossible.

One day they say they will wait to see whether Egyptian mediation efforts bear fruit. President Hosni Mubarak's promise that progress would be achieved in 10 days has come and gone, but the Americans are immobilized like a deer transfixed in the headlights of an oncoming car.

From time to time we hear they are allowing the parties to stew in their own juices. The problem with this approach, however, is that it is tactical and not strategic, useful especially when you do not know what else to do. In the longer term, passivity is untenable and must be replaced by something more activist.

The US administration must decide whether to continue to try and resuscitate the moribund Oslo process, or to bury it altogether and try something new. The question is whether it will figure out what to do before, or after, the next outbreak of uncontrolled violence.

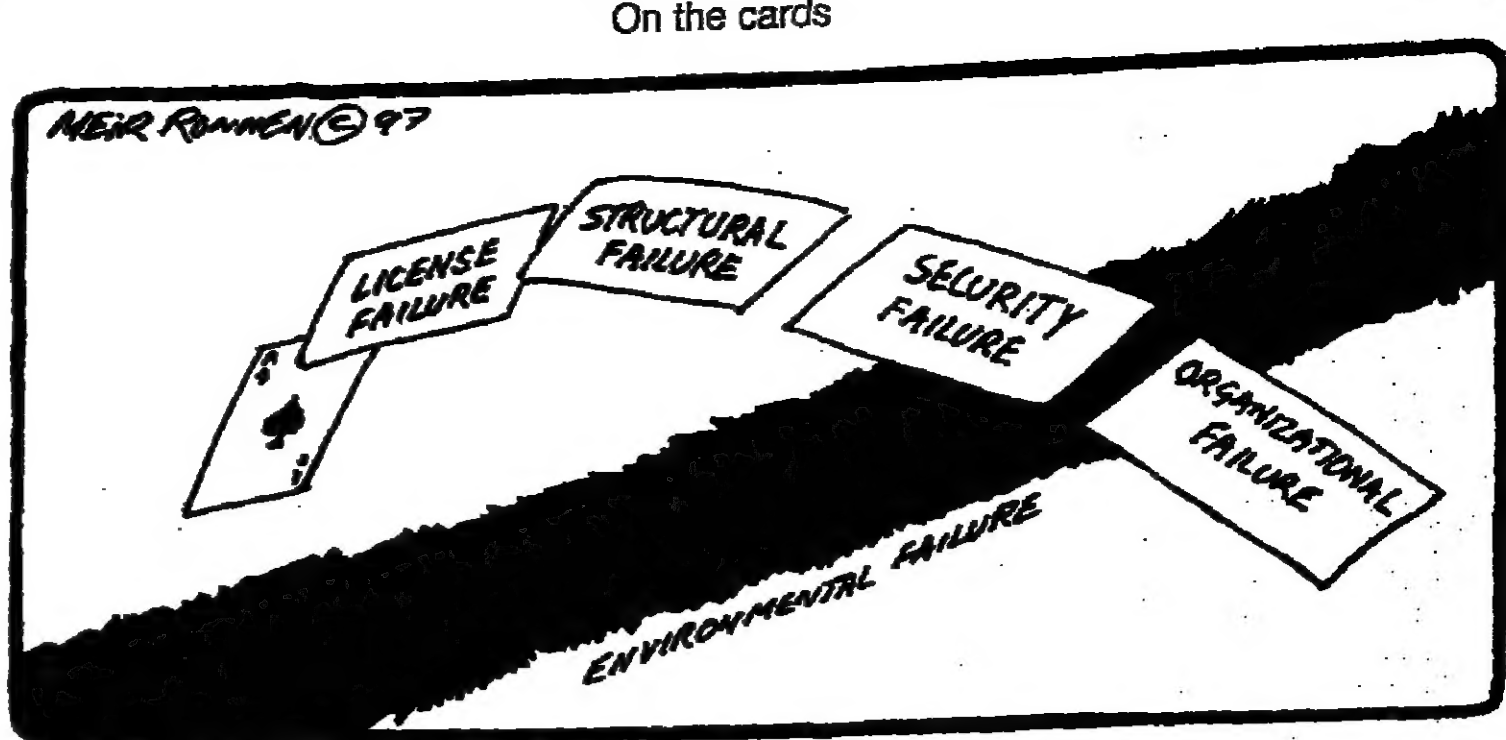
It is always difficult for officials and politicians to bury their handiwork, and the Oslo process may yet move forward, in fits and starts, for some time to come. The time has come to acknowledge, however, that while it was supposed to build trust during a test period, today the process is having precisely the opposite effect.

We are told that the real problem is that the two sides have lost confidence in each other. By this is meant that secret understandings between Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat on the shape of the final status agreement no longer hold. Arafat is not content with the price Netanyahu appears prepared to pay, and will stay away from the bargaining table for some time as he attempts to squeeze further concessions. He will use all tactics at his disposal, including low-level violence and alliance-building in the international community, to gain greater leverage.

Netanyahu has moved to the center since the election and now proposes territorial compromise, as does the Labor Party. To paraphrase George Bernard Shaw, we now know what the gentleman professes; the only question is the price.

For several years now, Yossi Beilin — the true architect of Oslo — has been calling for Israel and the Palestinians to move directly to final-status talks. Netanyahu agrees, and the truth is that there is now more in common between the two large parties, Labor and Likud, than separates them. It is important that the Palestinians, indeed the entire international community, understand this reality.

At this critical juncture in the history of the Middle East, Netanyahu and Barak should put ego, partisan interests, and ambition aside and find a way to work together to advance the peace process.



Israel seen in the UN mirror

MOSHE ZAK

Fifty-three sports delegations from abroad — a true symbol of our link with the Diaspora — were set to cross the pedestrian bridge into Ramat Gan's National stadium this week when it collapsed, with the hapless Australians still on it.

While Israel was in trauma over the accident, it received another resounding slap in the face, at the UN.

The most one can say about a slap in the face is that it's unlikely to kill you, but it's distressing nonetheless. And the UN resolution, passed by an overwhelming majority and condemning Israel for the Har Homa project, may not kill the peace process, but it could do it a lot of damage. The Arabs might conclude that the whole world is with them and Israel is isolated, so why should they come to terms with it?

Yet there is no real call for panic. Fifteen years ago, after we annexed the Golan, the UN assembly called on all members to "break off immediately, both individually and collectively, all ties with Israel, in order to isolate it completely." But in spite of this call, reiterated at successive sessions, no country obeyed it.

Israel's economic and military links have actually multiplied, even with Arab countries. We have signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the US, a peace treaty with Jordan, and many agreements for cooperation in various fields worldwide.

On the other hand, we must not ignore the fact that 15 years ago Egypt abstained in the vote against us, while this year it was among the sponsors of the anti-Israel resolution.

Egypt is not the only country whose position has eroded drastically. Western Europe, which mostly voted against anti-Israel

resolutions then, this week mostly (apart from Germany) voted against Israel. The exception is Russia, which moved from voting against Israel to abstaining.

In 1982 most of Latin America abstained; this week most of it voted against us. Yet there was nothing preordained about all these votes.

Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the UN, once joked that the Arab-Muslim bloc could get a majority in the UN for a resolution

with a domestic crisis.

BINYAMIN Netanyahu should have approached Labor leader Ehud Barak and asked him to speak to Prime Minister Tony Blair to ensure Britain's support in the UN vote, a repeat of 15 years ago.

Barak himself, asked in London whether he opposed construction on Har Homa, answered prudently that he would have "done it differently." He didn't criticize the con-

We could have had more votes than Micronesia's this week, had we lobbied. But never mind — the US was with us

declaring the earth to be flat. And Israel has no choice but to play the UN's voting game. Yet this does not mean passively accepting that "the whole world's against us."

The cabinet's hasty telephone poll confirming Dore Gold's appointment to the UN and its subsequent rushing him over exposed the government's lack of interest — in preparing itself for the special UN session on Har Homa.

Micronesia oughtn't to have been the only country besides the US supporting Israel, though the US's single vote for us outweighs all the negative ones.

Many countries receive generous aid from Israel, and their leaders would have been ready to give us their vote in return, had they been approached directly and not merely through their UN ambassadors.

The Arab UN offensive cried out for a national counter-campaign on Israel's part. Instead, the government was busy dealing

struction itself, the UN's main concern.

Yasser Arafat did see Blair — after Barak — and urged a change in Britain's stance. The result: Instead of abstaining, Britain voted against us.

Had Barak used his fraternal party links with Britain's New Labor and urged Blair not to support the resolution, he would probably not have been rebuffed; on the contrary, he might have received a compliment for copying Blair's own electioneering tactics.

Blair harbored considerable reservations over the Tories' treatment of the Northern Ireland question. He preferred, however, not to air them in public, and accepted the Major government's decision not to negotiate with Sinn Féin while anti-British terrorism continued.

Blair's tactic — stirring up the social debate while avoiding a confrontation over national security — paid off. It could serve

Israel's Labor party equally well. Israel does not lose international support because of changes in its policy. Many countries viewed the annexation of the Golan as no less serious than Har Homa.

Nevertheless, in 1982 21 countries opposed the UN's harsh anti-Israel resolution; together with those which abstained or did not take part in the vote they made 71, against the 76 countries that voted against Israel.

This time it was 131 to 3 against us — and the reason for this vast erosion of support lies in the way our government reacts to things. Fifteen years ago, Egypt did not dare place the completion of the withdrawal from Sinai in jeopardy by voting against Israel. Now it has nothing to worry about.

Netanyahu could hardly criticize Barak for his lack of sensitivity in trekking to see Mubarak on the very day the Egyptian-sponsored anti-Israel resolution was passed, since he himself made the same mistake, on the same day — not canceling the scheduled talks with the Palestinians under the Egyptian ambassador's auspices, as a sign of Israel's dismay over Egyptian behavior.

As far as the UN itself is concerned, one must understand that it does not decide issues. It merely reflects the relative balance of blocs.

Our less than attractive image in the UN mirror should not influence Israel to change its policy, it being the national interest and not UN votes that should shape a country's direction.

What a UN vote does do is indicate the success of a country's efforts in the face of international constraints. This time Israel didn't pass muster, to say the least.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

From O.J. Simpson to Abeid

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Local reactions to the O.J. Simpson trial in the US primarily expressed self-satisfaction: Such a thing could never happen here. In Israel, we have professional judges, not trial by jury.

Then came the appeal on the conviction of Suleiman Abeid for the murder-rape of teenager Hanit Kikos of Ofakim in 1993. Of course, the primary victim of the three-way judicial split — one judge for conviction on both counts, one for acquittal, and one for conviction for rape and acquittal on the murder charge — was Abeid himself.

However, there was another victim: the professional mystique of the judges themselves. This mystique lies at the heart of the judicial myth. How could such a decision be beyond reasonable doubt?

The comparatively mild 12-year sentence meted out for the rape conviction, citing unspecified extenuating circumstances, seems, on its face, a further compromise decision. If so, how does judicial decision-making differ from that common in the other branches of government?

There was no jury system under the British Mandate not because the British thought that the system was inferior, but because they thought we were. Trial by jury, the heritage of Magna Carta, was not suitable for "natives," certainly not in a country with such national and communal divisions. The absence of trial by jury in Israel is inherited.

However, the supposed superiority of the so-called professionals as finders of fact is an Israeli invention. Both systems of fact-finding, lay and judicial, are subject to error.

Perhaps the judges in the Abeid affair could profit from one aspect of the O.J. Simpson trial. In that case, black jurors could readily accept the possibility that incriminating evidence against Simpson had been planted by a detective whose racial prejudices had been amply demonstrated. Tensions between the Los Angeles police and the black community were no secret to

published by the Institute for Palestine Studies and the University of Libya in 1972: "The court has been dauntless in its defense of the rights and freedoms of the citizen and has not hesitated to embarrass the authorities and to restrict their activities" except with regard to "political attitudes or activities which involve an attempt to alter the Zionist nature of the state."

The O.J. Simpson verdict meant that a murderer may have been let off free. However, it will have salutary repercussions on the

The professional mystique that surrounds our judges is largely a myth

operations of the Los Angeles police for many years to come.

In the Abeid case, at the very least, judicial acceptance, however compromised, of a questionable confession makes unlikely any change in prevailing practices.

GIVEN the choice, it would be preferable to let a rapist escape punishment.

When it comes to fact-finding, particularly where credibility is the main issue, judicial professionalism is a myth. There is nothing in either the socialization, academic training, or experience of judges that confers any particular professional competence in this area.

True, neutrality is an indispensable attribute of the judicial role. Also, unlike a jury, which simply finds the defendant guilty or not guilty, judges must give reasoned explanations for their decisions. The weight accorded an evidentiary fact may be as crucial in the ultimate decision as the finding of the fact itself.

Sabri Jiryis is an activist for the El-Ard Nasserist faction, banned in Israel in the 1960s. This graduate of the Hebrew University law faculty, who spent his later years abroad as a PLO spokesman, wrote in *Democratic Liberties in Israel*,

is a safe guess that the Arabs would be the first to object. However, the absence of a jury system makes even more compelling the need to make the judiciary more representative of the general population.

The Abeid decision thus gave added weight to the proposal by Prof. Amnon Rubinstein in the Judicial Appointments Committee that District Judge Zouabi be appointed to the Supreme Court.

While the decision of the committee this week to appoint Israel Prize Laureate Prof. Yitzhak England, was unexceptional (except for the opposition of the representatives of the Bar Association), the emphasis surrounding the commit-

tee's deliberations on the representative function of the judiciary was striking.

Seldom has so much talk been devoted to the organizational ties of judicial candidates. According to reports, the support for the England appointment by National Religious Party MK Yitzhak Levy was obtained by the provisional elevation of District Judge Goldberg to the High Court bench.

In any political forum, this would be characterized as backscratching or log-rolling. If so, then once again, the professional mystique of the judiciary suffers — an unavoidable consequence of the court's augmented political salience and the performance of its constitutional role.

Judicial professionalism is, in any case, largely a myth. It is based on a formalistic conception of law, according to which the law is a value-free conceptual universe, which judges are professionally equipped to apply. Hence, the guild-like nature of the Judicial Appointments Committee, in which elevation to the nation's highest court is largely determined by those who are already there.

The myth of judicial professionalism has had its uses in buttressing the rule of law in Israel. It is no easy matter to leave it behind. However, this is one of the costs of growing up.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

POSTSCRIPT

A NEW theory claims Charles Darwin suffered from a panic disorder and phobia that often turns its victims into recluses.

Two researchers at the University of Iowa College of Medicine published a paper saying that Darwin, whose travels and resulting theory of evolution altered the course of science, suffered from panic disorder and agoraphobia.

Thomas Barloon and Russell Noyes suggested in their paper that Darwin's condition changed

his lifestyle from worldwide collector to recluse, and, in the process, helped him focus on and complete his "Origin of the Species."

The journal that published their paper subsequently printed responses from other theorists. One claimed Darwin's condition stemmed from inner ear problems; another suggested that Darwin's "well-known flamenco" and his reports of constant stomach problems point to Chagas disease, a parasitic infection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JUNIOR FACULTY STRIKE

Sir, — I am a member of the so-called Junior Faculty of Haifa University, which, together with the universities of Tel Aviv, Bar-Ilan and Jerusalem, has been on strike since May 13. There has been the briefest of press and television coverage, which leads me to infer that most citizens of Israel unrelated to university affairs have no idea that the strike is still continuing and shows no sign of ending.

The junior faculty comprises doctoral students, teaching assistants and others who have already obtained either a second or third degree, and are collectively known as external teachers. I belong to this third category, as do many of my friends and colleagues. All the above three categories are paid — if they are paid at all, for some doc-

toral students are asked to teach with no remuneration, but just for the "prestige and experience" — as seasonal workers, hired for eight months, then fired, and possibly rehired the following academic year. This arrangement ensures that we do not receive any social benefits that are due to every worker, such as pension fund, sick leave, holidays or national insurance in case of a work accident. Nor do we receive severance pay. Indeed, if I were working on a production line in a factory doing the most menial job, I would still be entitled to the above. Instead, having completed many years of higher education and with many years of experience, I am paid according to conditions of a foreign worker or a seasonal fruit picker.

I cannot believe that, if the facts were known and loudly broadcast, this strike would still be continuing. From what I can judge, education seems to take a back seat, and it is likely that, come next academic year, we will still be out on strike. Three years ago, we supported the senior faculty in their demands and got nothing in return. They will commence negotiations for a new salary increase at the beginning of the next academic year, on top of the 60 percent rise they obtained in 1994, while our most modest demand is simply to be given a 12-month salary, which will entitle us to what every other worker receives.

SUE FREED

Haifa.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 Years Ago, July 18, 1937
Writing in *Journal American* Mr. Lloyd George, the British War Prime Minister denounces the Palestine Partition scheme. He writes: "What will the sixteen and a half million Jews who are dispersed over the surface of the globe think of the proposal to break the solemn pledge given them by great nations in return for services promised and rendered?"

50 Years Ago, July 18, 1947
"Operation Tiger" which severs Netanya from the rest of the country continues. The town is under martial law and cut by barbed-wire fences while British Army searches for two sergeants held by Irgun Zvai Leumi.
The summary of evidence in

the case against Mayor Roy Farran, the Superintendent of Palestine Police, accused of kidnapping and murdering Jewish boy, Alexander Rubowitz, on May 6, 1947, begins at Jerusalem's Allenby Camp. Five witnesses testify to having seen the boy being dragged by Farran into a car in Rehavia Quarter of Jerusalem. Rubowitz's body has not yet been found.

Palestine doctors demand the dismissal of all Jewish doctors from Palestine Government hospitals.

25 Years Ago, July 18, 1972
Egypt expels all Russian experts. The Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, declares that the Egyptian government had taken over all Soviet military installations and equipment and had

placed them under Egyptian armed forces control.

15 Years Ago, July 18, 1982
Ammunition dump explosions rock Lower Galilee. A military source explains that the ammunition destroyed was war booty captured from PLO terrorists in Lebanon.

10 Years Ago, July 18, 1987
More than 2,000 US citizens of Palestinian descent, who arrived in Israel as tourists, have remained in the country after their visas have expired and are in the country illegally. This was learned at the Foreign Ministry following the US demarche on the treatment of Black and Arab Americans on their arrival here.
Alexander Zvielli

The show must go on

It was around eight o'clock on Monday night I was intending to cross the pedestrian bridge leading into the National Stadium in Ramat Gan, where the opening ceremony of the Maccabiah games was scheduled to take place. I was with my daughter and three other friends from the sports world, some 10 minutes behind the Australian delegation.

When we arrived, we found our way barred by soldiers and rescue personnel. We couldn't pass, they told us — and we couldn't have gone on further anyway, because there was no bridge any more.

We saw a helicopter circling above, illuminating the area with a searchlight.

It was clear that there had been some kind of accident, but we didn't know what. Half an hour later, an announcement via the loudspeakers requested that all the delegations reboard the buses that had brought them to the stadium.

My friends and I took a roundabout way to the stadium, past the shopping mall. It took us over an hour.

When we arrived, the opening ceremony was in full swing. There was music and dancers. We sat down in the seats reserved for the Australians.

At that stage, we still didn't know what had happened. Never mind, I told myself, we can sit here until they arrive.

We knew that the bridge had collapsed. We had seen some Australians who hadn't crossed comforting others who were weeping; we saw a press photographer arousing anger when he tried to take a shot, but we still didn't understand the scope of the accident.

Then the chief organizer of the Maccabiah appeared and informed the crowd that a disaster had occurred, that [as far as he knew at the time] one person had been killed and 48 injured when

ESTHER ROTH-SHACHAMOROV

the pedestrian bridge collapsed. For this reason, he said, it had been decided to cancel the walk-past by the delegations and finish the opening ceremony at that point.

The massive crowd was requested to disperse in an orderly way, which it did with great restraint.

When the athletes were killed at Munich, I was appalled at the games continuing. Atlanta changed my attitude

I WAS a track and field participant in the Munich Olympics in 1972 when 11 athletes, including my trainer, were murdered by Black September terrorists. In spite of the appalling act, the decision was made to continue with the games.

For the next 20 years, I nursed anger in my heart that athletes could be murdered and yet a competition proceed as though nothing had happened — except that we Israelis returned home with coffins in tow.

My feelings were complex, and hard to bear. Again and again I asked myself whether the same thing would have happened had athletes from a big country like the US or Germany been murdered. Would the "show have gone on" then too, as though nothing much had happened?

Then, at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1992, I got my answer. Yes: Even in the case of a country much bigger than Israel, the

games would proceed in the face of injury and death.

At Atlanta, an assassin planted a bomb in the Olympic park, killing one and injuring 100.

Nevertheless, and even with the full scope of the incident still unknown, the Olympic organizers decided to go ahead and hold the games.

That terror attack in Atlanta changed my attitude, replacing anger with understanding. I looked differently at what had seemed like callousness on the part of those unaffected.

I came to the conclusion that when terror strikes or accident occurs at a sporting event of national and international significance perhaps there is no other choice than to carry on.

The Olympics and the Maccabiah demand years of effort and sacrifice from those taking part. Should all this be thrown away?

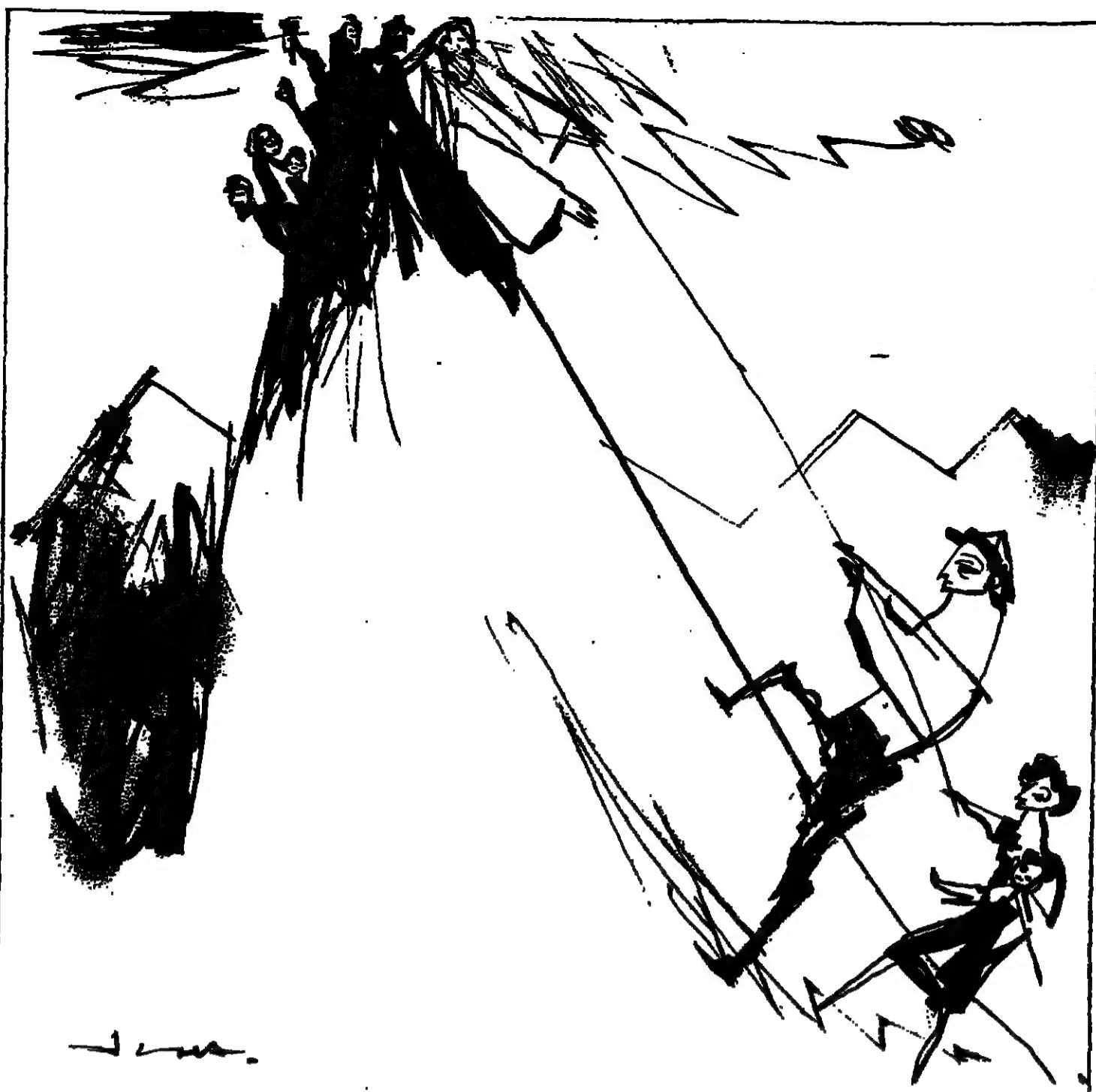
In spite of the pain of the wounded and their loved ones, do we have any alternative but to carry on? After all, there is always the possibility that something will happen. We will never be able to protect ourselves from the unexpected.

And when it happens, a major consideration has to be preventing crowd panic that could lead to even greater disaster. Carrying on, at least until the picture is clear, is surely the best way to maintain calm.

To those who say the proceedings should have been canceled, I would say: Should we sit at home in a kind of sterility? Should we stop holding events of this sort?

If I was one of those injured in a mishap like Monday's, I wouldn't want that to stop the event going ahead.

The writer won seven gold medals at the Asian Games in 1970-80, and reached the finals at the 1976 Olympics in the 100-meter hurdles.



Flying the flag

DAVID NEWMAN

defending its legitimate interests.

That, after all, is what democracy is about — not just the rights of the majority, but the ability to defend and even promote the rights of minorities who do not necessarily share the same national and social aspirations as the dominant group.

It is thus hypocritical for the state to define itself as a democracy and, at the same time, deny equal allocation of municipal funding or housing mortgages to those who, it is often argued, do not participate equally in those

Israel is being governed by the closest it has ever come to a post-Zionist government

tasks considered part of the national ethos, notably military service.

This is particularly so where it is the state that has determined that these groups be exempt from this particular obligation, albeit for vastly differing reasons.

No one is suggesting that everybody within Israel, Arabs, haredim or anyone else, be forced to identify with symbols of statehood and the Zionist ethos. The state, as in any democracy, is not entitled to impose its own values on every individual in society.

At the same time, it is a fact that after 50 years of state-sponsored education and socialization, a smaller percentage of Israel's population identify with the basic raison d'être of the state than did in the 1950s and 1960s.

We have learned that to be both a Jewish and a democratic state is not easy. Some would say it is

impossible, that these two values, both important to the vast majority of Israel's citizens, are incompatible.

It is this dilemma that lies at the heart of the debate over post-Zionism.

SHOULD Israel continue to be defined as an exclusively Jewish and Zionist state? Or should we redefine it as a "state of all its citizens," one in which there is total equality, regardless of the national or religious affiliation of any particular group?

How ironic it is that when Yitzhak Rabin was in power, he was criticized for relying on the support of the non-Zionist Arab parties in the Knesset for his majority. This, despite the fact that these parties were excluded from actually being part of the government and the cabinet.

By contrast, the present government coalition contains many more members who do not recognize the legitimacy of the secular Zionist state.

The government should stop deceiving itself that it represents the last defender of national values through such artificial means as forcing everyone to display the national flag.

We should recognize that on the eve of Israel's 50th year, and 100 years after the founding of the Zionist movement, the country finds itself governed by the closest it has ever come to a post-Zionist government, one in which major decisions are determined by groups who reject the Zionist raison d'être of the state in its present form.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Center of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

Let everybody be happy

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Reform conversion is thus the perfect prelude to Reform Judaism: Make up any rules you want, and call it Judaism.

The modern Jew understands why in baseball the basepaths cannot be shortened for the slow runners and the outfield fences brought in for weaker hitters, but not why anyone should ever be told they are not Jewish.

Baseball is important; its rules are sacrosanct. Judaism isn't. So let everyone be happy.

To the modern Jew, baseball is sacrosanct, Judaism isn't

are sacrosanct. Judaism isn't. So let everyone be happy.

CONVERSION today is viewed largely as a matter of convenience rather than one of deep spiritual yearning. According to sociologist Egon Mayer, nearly 90 percent of intermarriages in America are in the context of interfaith marriage.

For appearance's sake, Daddy tells Christopher Jr., that if he wants to marry his daughter Princess, he must become a Jew. "What's a Jew?" Christopher asks. "Like me," answers Daddy.

Christopher has no problem owning a Cadillac and a country club membership, and decides, "Why not?"

In Israel, the press is filled with stories of the difficulties facing non-Jewish immigrants from Russia. In Russia, where there was no advantage in being Jewish, conversion never occurred to them. In Israel, where there are many incentives to being considered Jewish, they are eager to con-

vert.

Typical of the genre was the embittered complaint of one father whose son by a non-Jewish mother was informed at his draft registration that his Conservative conversion does not make him Jewish.

How could it be, the father lashed out, that this boy who so quickly learned Hebrew and who is one of Israel's most promising

young jazz musicians should not be viewed as Jewish?

About his son's attachment to Judaism, his performance of mitzvot, his knowledge of Torah, the father had not one word to say. One would think that it is linguistic and musical ability that make one Jewish.

We are supposed to feel sorry for this boy. And we do. Not because he isn't Jewish, but because he has been defrauded. He was defrauded by those who knew that his conversion would not be recognized, and who never told him that there is a connection between being Jewish and keeping the Torah.

The common thread running through all these stories of hardship is the assumption that Judaism should never deny anyone what they want.

In the words of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, "The ancient, unbending Word of God, which until now thwarted so many desires and demanded so many sacrifices, has been turned into a

heavenly manna, reflecting everyone's own wishes, echoing their own notions, hallowing their own ambitions."

One of the greatest costs of conversion on demand is the stigma it casts on the true righteous convert. The Midrash records God as saying of one who accepts Judaism out of a love of Him, "I consider him as one of Israel, nay, even more, I regard him as a Levite."

Another Midrash says that those who stood at Sinai would not have accepted the yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven had it not been for the thunder, the flames, the lightning, and the sounds of the shofar; while the convert came forward of his own accord.

The Messiah descends from two converts: Ruth, the Moabite, and Na'ama, the Ammonite. Rabbi Akiva, the greatest teacher of the Oral Law, was the offspring of converts. And Onkelos, whose translation of the Torah into Aramaic is printed in every Pentateuch, defied his uncle, the Roman emperor, to convert.

Count Potocki, a young seminary and scion of one of the leading families of the Polish nobility, was burned at the stake by the Catholic Church for becoming Avraham ben Avraham. And as long as there were Jews in Vilna, every Shavuos they sang the melody and words he sang on his way to martyrdom: "But we are your Nation, the children of Your covenant."

Converts such as these are a prod to those who were born Jews, reminding them that being Jewish is the greatest privilege of all.

The writer is a biographer and contributing editor to the Jewish Observer.

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Column One

Dacia waves its roots

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Romania has a latitude problem. That's discomfiting by geography - or an attitude caused by latitude.

Romania has an uneasy feeling that God put it in the wrong place on the map. It knows it is a Western European country. It knows it belongs in NATO, in the European Union, in every sub-committee, community center and dogfight that has the tag "euro" in front of it. If anyone is listening out there, the name Romania is derived from Rome, the language is as Latin as French, Spanish or Italian.

Romanians repeat the message by waving their roots at every opportunity. Don't take it from me - here's Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea in an interview last week: "Historically and culturally, we believe we belong in the West." "We are crucially important," Romania's ambassador here, Gheorghe Popescu, told Column One. "We are in an important geostrategic position between Europe, and the Balkans to the south. NATO with Poland, Hungary and the Czechs will stop at the Romanian border. I can't see any reason not to be in, we would feel more secure in than out, and 90 percent of the population agrees." A note of indignation rose in his voice. "Romania is not a mere consumer of security. It is also a provider of security. Under British command there are Romanian troops in Bosnia. At our own expense, there are Romanian troops in Albania. Despite the stability now in Moldova, we have an interest and obligation to help prevent any future instability," Popescu said.

Unfortunately, when Europeans think of Romania - on the rare occasions they do - the words that swim around in the sea of mental associations tend to be Dracula, Balkans, Slavs, east, Ceausescu.

Trouble. It is unfortunate. But in a world overloaded with too much information, associations still paint the mental picture. Even if American-ethnographers sit at everyone else's "stereotyping," the associations are still there - Brits sneer, Germans bark, Italians pinch, Irish drink, Scots spend (not), French don't care what they do as long as they pronounce it properly.

Arguments over the expansion of NATO have done little to change the picture of Romania as viewed by other Westerners, nor the high opinion Romanians have of their pan-European importance.

Some non-Romanians may be vaguely aware of the NATO-Russia-US-Europe saga that has been bubbling through the foreign news headlines for the last few weeks.

It hasn't exactly been setting continents on fire however. Coffee tables have not been upended in indignant debate along the Mediterranean coastal hinterland, nor has there been thrown in agitated dispute in the bars of the American Midwest.

But in Romania, "NATO fever" swept the nation, poor thing. Gregorian Bivolariu, a psychic showman, tried to channel the energy of his 30,000 psychic colleagues into "moving our borders closer to the Atlantic." Now there's a baring of the national Freudian attitude problem if ever you saw one. Television ran a NATO lottery and claimed to have sent a million postcards to the July 8 NATO summit in Madrid.

The basic NATO deal is this: doubting Atlantic alliance partners, chivvied by Uncle Sam and chided by his Anglo-Saxon nephew in London, are shuffling eastwards for reasons shrouded in political blather but otherwise vague. Russia doesn't like it, but apart from making soothing noises to help Bill Clinton's old pal Boris Yeltsin, NATO doesn't much care.

The Madrid summit decided to bring Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO as the first wave of former Soviet minions now cheerfully thumbing their noses at Moscow. Romania (and in quieter fashion, Slovenia) jumped up and

down outside, waving their arms and yelling "what about us?" Washington said it had blocked NATO membership for Romania because political and economic reforms had only begun moving along in the past seven months - when former communists were kicked out of office. "Could try harder," said the report card - "one grade down." This reinforced one of those other foreign perceptions of Romania - the lingering suspicion that the dramatic 1989 overthrow of the obnoxious Ceausescu family was a push rather than a truly democratic uprising. Never mind this galling hypocrisy of Western allies (including Israel) who never spoke out against the criminal dictator because he was "our son-of-a-bitch" with a foreign policy that played at independence from Moscow.

We cannot deny the heroism of Romania's 1989 freedom fighters or the people's yearning for democracy and decent living standards - but the glorious revolution was hijacked by less-than-glorious old timeservers and opportunists.

It is for their neglect, self-interest and incompetence Romanians have been rejected by NATO. Which is the people bore no grudges against Bill Clinton when he came to award them the Conservation Prize for Rejection, and they cheered him lustily in Bucharest square instead.

The truth is the Romanians' Western image of themselves is correct.

But they forget they have been in the wilderness for a long, long time since the Roman Empire, what with Ottomans, Nazis, Communists and other stuff.

It's going to take a lot of coming back. Most other east European states (apart from Slovenia, interestingly enough) are happy with their east European heritage, but Romania wants to travel all the way to the West and be accepted as a sort of second France (as if one isn't enough, Europe may groan.) Historical national legend and mythic soul are fine - but the irony is that a nation is mature only when it begins to question rather than swallow whole the myths that bolster it.

The history is there for all tourists to probe. The country is beautiful. The ancient Dacian kingdom indeed was colonized by Rome and the people proudly adopted the Latin language. Roman mores and later, Christianity. Modern Romania was reborn from the Ottoman provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia in 1878. If Romania says it's a Latinized Western state, that's where its people's soul is, that's where it belongs.

Yet, it was somewhat amusing that last Friday up popped no less than the most famous Romanian defector of the Communist era, Ion Mihail Pacepa, to prick his country's NATO balloon. When he fled in 1978, Pacepa brought to the United States details of how the Romanians specialized in penetrating NATO.

Pacepa said in an article that most senior positions in the Romanian intelligence community still are held by those who have always viewed the United States as the enemy. More specifically, he named one "enormously influential" official among them - Gen. Mihai Caraman. Caraman was the only Romanian officer personally honored by the KGB for "exceptional results against NATO." Well, he didn't achieve any this time, or he could be a NATO officer this week.

No doubt NATO officers or NATO-fevered Romanians couldn't care less, but it all puts this columnist among those who believe the whole NATO expansion plan is a costly, idiotic, triumphalist, moronic venture into the shades of Europe past, at the behest of easterners still paranoid about Russia.

It's too late now - but these eastern states should have said they had no wish to join a club that accepts people like them.

That would have been a real triumph for Marx (Groucho) over Marx (Karl).

Mir loses power in outer space

MOSCOW (AP) - The already-damaged Mir lost power yesterday on most key systems when the crew accidentally disconnected a cable. But the three-man team remained safe and quickly began repairing the space station, space officials said.

The error - the latest in a series of breakdowns that have bedeviled Mir in recent months - cut power to electricity, orientation, communications, and the oxygen generation systems, said Russian Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov. He stressed that crew members are not in danger and able to move freely throughout the darkened space station. However, they must go into the Soyuz escape capsule if they need electricity or want to communicate with Mission Control, he said. The Soyuz has systems independent from the rest of Mir.

Several hours after the accident, the spacecraft was stabilizing, its batteries were

recharging, and the crew planned to begin switching various systems back on, Russian space officials said.

The two Russians and one American on board were making routine preparations yesterday to repair the Mir's already damaged power system when they accidentally disconnected a cable supplying power to the orientation system, which directs the station's solar panels to the sun.

"It was a human error, but everyone can make a mistake and we should not judge the crew too harshly," Solovyov said.

With the orientation system down, the Mir twisted chaotically for several hours before it could be stabilized.

The oxygen generating system shut off, though there is enough air to last for several days, in addition to backup oxygen canisters. The lights went off, though the spacecraft was receiving some sunlight through its win-

dows. Solovyov said the crew quickly reconnected the cable after the accident.

US President Bill Clinton downplayed the problems.

"As far as we know right now, they have gotten control of things and there seems to be no immediate crisis," Clinton said in Washington.

However, he said it was too early to say whether the US would continue its involvement with Mir.

Solovyov said NASA is helping ensure communication continues with the station. That includes switching on its ground stations so the Mir can communicate with Russian or American space officials at all times.

Normally, the crew can only communicate for a few minutes out of every hour as the space station passes over Russian territory.

The orientation system malfunctions periodically - this is the third time it has gone down in recent weeks - but space officials say it is a familiar problem they know how to fix.

The latest problem adds to the Mir's long list of woes and comes at a time when the crew already was preparing for a difficult repair mission designed to restore the troubled spacecraft to close to full power.

The Mir has been working at slightly more than half-power since a June 25 collision with a cargo ship. The repair mission, which already has been delayed twice, is scheduled for next Thursday and Friday.

Solovyov said that if power can be restored to the station, the repair will proceed as planned. But Viktor Blagov, deputy chief of mission control, said the current problems might delay the repair mission for two to five days.

Turks to probe Ciller's 'CIA ties'

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) - The military is investigating allegations that former prime minister Tansu Ciller worked for the CIA, Turkish newspapers reported yesterday.

Ciller and the US Embassy both denied the charges.

The military chief of staff ordered a probe of allegations that Ciller has been a CIA informer since 1967, passing on information about Turkish government and military policies concerning the US, the daily *Milliyet* reported.

The allegations were initially made by Dogu Perincek, head of

the Labor Party, a small leftist party traditionally in opposition to Ciller's True Path party.

Ciller served as deputy premier and foreign minister in the coalition government led by the Islamic-oriented Welfare Party, which resigned last month under military pressure. The military, the self-appointed guardian of Turkey's secular system, opposed Welfare's religious policies.

Ciller assailed the military for launching the investigation. "Shame on anyone who does not discard these allegations," she told reporters yesterday.



Honoring a visiting president

South African President Nelson Mandela addresses a crowd of academics in Bangkok after receiving an honorary degree at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University yesterday. Mandela is on a two-day visit to Thailand. (Reuters)

Clinton names Shelton as new Joint Chiefs chairman

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bill Clinton yesterday nominated Army Gen. Henry Shelton, a combat-tested commander and unconventional warrior, to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the president's top military adviser.

"He has distinguished himself as a decorated soldier," Clinton said in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden.

"I am both humbled as well as honored," Shelton said in brief remarks at the ceremony attended also by the current Joint Chiefs chairman, Army Gen. John Shalikashvili. Shalikashvili is scheduled to retire at the end of September.

Shelton, 55, heads the Special Operations Command, which was created in 1987 under legislation sponsored by then-Sen. William Cohen, now the defense secretary.

Clinton's choice puts a non-traditional soldier in the top military job. With a background in the Army's "light" infantry and multi-service Special Operations units, he is unlike the tankers, jet fliers or navy men who have served as Joint Chiefs chairmen in the past.

"From Vietnam to Desert Storm he has proven his skill and courage in combat," Clinton said, adding that Shelton was a "thinker" with a "unique perspective" on security challenges expected to face America in the coming years.

On the shloshim of the death of

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Asmamo (left) and Emuie, parents of Tafra Behata. Says Asmamo about his murdered son, 'Taфра was the one who led me to Israel. He carried the younger children on his back.' (Ariel Jerolimski)

A loaded issue

Eight days after police pumped 11 bullets into 23-year-old Taфра Behata, the huge bloodstains and the rubber gloves, plasma bags and other first-aid paraphernalia used in the hopeless efforts to save his life were still strewn in the Beersheba apartment where he was shot and killed.

Police had registered with a laundry marker the distance from the floor of the bullets that had lodged in the walls of the tiny apartment. Scraps of wood from the bedroom door, which had been shattered by the policemen's bullets, were gathered in a small pile on the floor.

The door was unlocked, the apartment was uninhabited and anyone could come off the street and walk in undisturbed to witness the gruesome sight. As if the fact that a man had been gunned down by police in such tragic circumstances was of so little significance that the mess did not even have to be cleaned up.

NO ONE knows exactly what happened on the night of July 6. After Behata, who immigrated here from Ethiopia five years ago, was killed, police found he had no criminal record, had served in the army and was a volunteer in the Ofakim Civil Guard for four years.

The case is under investigation by the Justice Ministry's Police Investigation Unit. Many people - including Behata's family, leaders of the Ethiopian community, and the police - are waiting anxiously to hear the results of the investigation.

From bits and pieces of information gathered from family, friends, local activists and police, the following picture of the night's events emerges:

Behata was on his way back to Beersheba from Ofakim, where he had gone with a cousin to see an apartment. Behata had lived in Ofakim since coming to Israel, but the family moved to Beersheba four months ago. He had intended to start his own family back in his adopted hometown. Behata, who had completed two-and-a-half years of compulsory military service in the Hatzirim air-force base, found work as a guard and carried a licensed pistol.

According to Moshe Behata (no relation), the director-general of the Roof Organization of Ethiopian Immigrants and a long-time Beersheba activist, Taфра Behata was apparently playing with his loaded pistol in the taxi during the

Taфра Behata, an Ethiopian immigrant, was shot dead by police in Beersheba early last week, and no one can explain why, Dan Izenberg reports



Moshe Berata at the site where his brother Taфра was killed by Beersheba police. Eight days after the shooting, the site remains untouched. (Ariel Jerolimski)

ride home and got into an argument with the driver, who ordered him to remove the magazine.

After Behata and his cousin got out of the taxi, some 200 meters from the entrance to the apartment building where he was shot, the suspicious driver hailed a passing Civil Guard patrol.

At this point, accounts differ. According to one, the civil guardsmen raced after Behata and he aimed his pistol at them. According to another, Behata became frightened when the guards chased him and ran into the building - a former absorption center - where a friend of his lived.

The friend has since disappeared - which explains why the apartment has been uninhabited since police removed their cordon - and it is unclear whether Behata ordered the man to leave, or whether he happened to be on his way out of the flat when Behata arrived.

Meanwhile, the civil guardsmen summoned police, who surrounded the building. At some point, they entered the apartment and opened fire.

They did not try to communicate with Behata, nor did they bring a police psychologist or use members of the community to persuade

him to give himself up. According to Behata's friends and family, the police ignored the pleas of Ethiopians on the spot to make contact with him or bring his parents to calm him down and bring him out safely.

According to Southern District Police Spokesman Shalom Ben-Hamo, the police "had no other choice. It's easy to be smart after the event. We are accused of having used excessive force. This kind of criticism ties our hands. Next time, if the police don't act quickly, the armed man will grab hostages. The commander at the scene must decide what to do."

"It was a tragic event which we did not initiate. We handled it professionally and properly," Ben-Hamo said.

Some 2,000 Ethiopians - one-third of the entire Beersheba community - attended Behata's funeral. During the event, 15 local kessim (Ethiopian spiritual leaders) performed a special ceremony, during which they put a curse on the policemen who killed Behata. Family and friends demonstrated outside the Beersheba police station for two days and nights.

Moshe Behata warned that if the government does not put the police who killed Taфра Behata on trial, "we will not sit back quietly. The community is extremely angry and we will take to the streets, if we are not satisfied with the findings of the committee. We will protect ourselves, since the law does not protect us."

IT IS not easy to sketch a profile of Taфра Behata or get to know him well enough to guess at the dynamics that went on between him and the taxi driver and the police.

For one thing, his parents and brothers are suspicious of "outsiders." Behata's father, Asmamo, refused to allow any of his sons or family friends to talk to a reporter. He insisted that notes taken from conversations with some of the younger people in the mourning area set up outside his home, a few hundred meters away from where his son was killed, be ripped up.

Other than himself, the only person he authorized to talk to this reporter was Moshe Behata. Asmamo's son, also called Moshe, a small, smooth-faced, handsome and glowering young man who seemed to be just as suspicious as his father - bent over backwards to protect him and see to it that his word was obeyed.

See LOADED, Page 10

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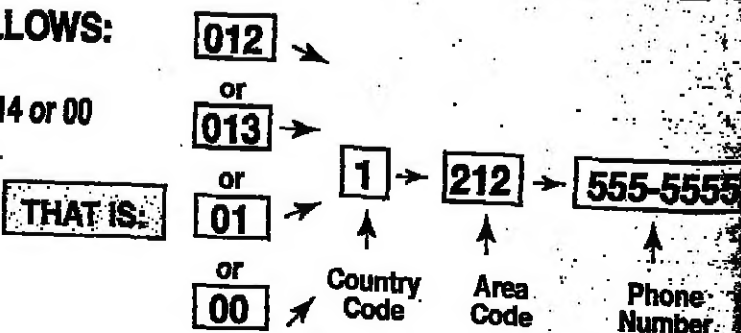
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הכנאות והחל

A street of many names

A tense quiet

It's a street of many names. The Palestinians call it Shuhadeh ("the martyrs"), a term that conjures up their six-year-long intifada as well as Islamic lore. A sign put up by the Israeli settlers names it King David, recalling the biblical tale of his having been anointed in Hebron.

The once-paved surface is a morass of sand strewn with rocks and other debris, symbolizing the perilous situation in this ancient and hotly disputed city.

Until the beginning of the week, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of grave consequences, Shuhadeh or King David Street was the scene of relentless urban combat between Palestinian stone and fire-bomb throwers and Israeli troops. The soldiers adopted a defensive stance, firing rubber bullets to keep the Arab rioters at bay, causing dozens of Palestinian casualties.

Walking from the upbeat, but economically-strapped northern end of the Arab district, past the Palestinian police guards, through the Israeli army roadblock and between the stone buildings that lead to the Jewish settlers' residence at Beit Hadassah, is reminiscent of the pre-1989 passage from ebullient West Berlin to somber East Berlin, except that there the tension was less palpable.

The US picked this troublesome street for an ostensibly beneficial, but politically controversial, public-works project. An American contractor was called in to supervise the installation of underground pipelines for sewerage and fresh water, presumably for the benefit of both populations. Work began last March and was supposed to have been completed by the end of May, said David Wilder, a spokesman for Hebron's Jewish quarter, but that purported target date is long gone and no one on the American, Israeli or Palestinian side seems to know when it will be finished.

"We received a pledge from the former civil administration that the street would never be closed to vehicular traffic," Wilder said, acknowledging that it is still possible for Arabs, Jews and everyone else to trudge in or out along the sandy route, but complaining that this has forced the Jewish settlers to drive through "the Arafat area."

"Of course it was all lies," Wilder charged. "Our van for internal transport was hit by gasoline bombs four times."

He dismissed the value of the IDF escort assigned to these trips, contending that the soldiers "don't do anything, but just watch."

The Palestinian police, who, "we were told" would not be around when the Jewish settlers drove through, "stop our cars and cause us problems."

Wilder alleged that the compulsory bypass with all the attendant difficulties was one of the American tactics designed to make their lives in the "City of the Patriarchs" untenable. "The problem is that the Hebron Agreement was made with the US as well as with the Palestinian Authority," Wilder went on. "And the IDF, as well as the Israeli government, are afraid to get into trouble with the Americans."

THE Eerie calm that set in after the latest upsurge of intercommunal skirmishing is not expected to last. With the local Palestinians and Israelis at cross-purposes and with neither side willing or able to make any further compromises,

Palestinians and Israelis in Hebron agree on only one thing: The calm won't last. Jay Bushinsky reports.



Palestinian police patrol the streets of Hebron on Monday. It was the first time they appeared in the city since the rioting began. (Bryan McBurney)

Peace Patrol

THEY WALKED TOGETHER, the Israeli soldiers and the Palestinian police, a sight that was unprecedented in the city since the rioting began. The Israeli soldiers, dressed in their standard olive drab uniforms, walked in a loose formation, their rifles slung over their shoulders. The Palestinian police, in their dark uniforms, walked alongside them, some carrying batons. The street was filled with the sound of their footsteps and the occasional murmur of conversation.

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Zeid credited the multi-national Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) with doing a good job of monitoring the situation "on the city's streets." He said his personnel "keep the record straight." (See box.)

Not so, said Wilder. He charged that the TIPH "is excellent" for the Palestinians. "Recalling that the Jewish settlers opposed its entry, he said they still were against it. They wrote a report according to which we were responsible for the violence in Hebron," he went on. "Actually, the last spate of clashes preceded the pig leaflet's distribution, but the TIPH personnel didn't do anything about them."

Independent Palestinian observers

Walking from the upbeat Arab district of Hebron, past the Palestinian police guards, through the Israeli army roadblock and between the stone buildings that lead to Beit Hadassah, is reminiscent of the passage from ebullient West Berlin to somber East Berlin, except that there the tension was less palpable.

believe the decision to divide the city was "an invitation for trouble." In their opinion, it would not have mattered whether the Jewish settlers were militant Orthodox nationalists or apolitical haredim. "The Arabs reject the presence of Jews in any case," From the political standpoint, these quarters suspect that the purpose of the last round of rioting was not only to inflame the situation, but also to lure the US deeper into the situation. The unnamed mastermind in this imbroglio is apparently PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. He was said to be uneasy about the long-range consequences of the city's de facto partition, suspecting that it ultimately might be invoked by his opponents as a failure to include Hebron in the Palestinian state-in-the-making.

Exacerbating the tense confrontation between the two sides is the uncertain economic prospects facing the city's once-prosperous Palestinian population. "There is no money these days," a frustrated local wholesaler said as a truck pulled up to deliver a consignment of Israeli-manufactured soft drinks to be distributed to the city's food retailers. Without a steady income from day labor in Israel, due to the intermittent but often prolonged closures imposed by the IDF, Hebron's consumers are reluctant to spend the little cash.

Down town, on Shuhadeh/King David Street, tailors, picture framers and other craftsmen ply their trades with little hope of customers dropping in and even less chance of a lucrative sale. For them, it's an endless game of waiting—until the street is paved, traffic resumes, Arabs and Jews feel safe enough to stroll by and do business and above all, the stones, rubber bullets, tear gas and gasoline bombs remain out of sight and out of mind.

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

After a month of intensive clashes between Palestinians and IDF soldiers and border policemen in Hebron, relative calm was restored to the area on Monday when a large contingent of Palestinian policemen and other security officers began patrolling Shallah Street, which has been the scene of fierce rioting.

At the Palestinians' request, IDF officers met with their Palestinian counterparts on Sunday night. During the meeting, the Palestinians promised to maintain calm and prevent rioting in the H1 (Palestinian-controlled) areas, from spreading to H2, which is under Israeli control. In return, the IDF agreed to reopen stores in Shallah Road that had been ordered shut for four days due to the clashes.

On Wednesday night, IDF soldiers removed the huge cement blocks set up on Shallah Street on Sunday to limit the flow of Palestinian vehicles. The relaxing of restrictions, the IDF spokesman said, was due to the fact that there had been no rioting since Monday. The spokesman added that the army would continue to assess the situation and act accordingly.

But the removal of the cement blocks infuriated Hebron's Jews, who claimed yesterday that it was too soon to ease up on the Palestinians, given the intense rioting of the previous month. They clearly believe that just as the violence subsided only by order of the Palestinian Authority, it could resume at any moment at the PA's whim.

On Monday morning, a tense calm can be felt on Shallah Street. Stores are open for the first time in four days and the streets are bustling with people. Decked out in different colored uniforms ranging from blue tiger stripe to olive and dark blue, Palestinian policemen and other security officials are standing on both sides of the road, keeping a sharp lookout for potential stone-throwers. Some of the Palestinian policemen are on the rooftops of the surrounding houses. Plainclothes security men mingle in the crowd and municipality officials wearing orange armbands shoo some of the children away. There are no IDF soldiers on the street, only a handful based in the Ya'acoubia school nearby.

"We were told to come here early this morning and make sure everything is quiet," says Farid, a Palestinian policeman from one of the villages outside of Hebron. "If everything is quiet today, maybe tomorrow they will take away the cement blocks."

Pointing to the different uniforms he says: "Those in the dark blue uniform are police, but they don't work hard they just catch robbers. My friends and I—we do the dirty work, we run after the boys who throw stones."

A group of IDF officers are talking with the Palestinian Police officers. "Today it's all yours," says Pini, an IDF officer, to his Palestinian counterparts. To reporters standing nearby, he explained the cement blocks would remain until the Palestinians prove themselves.

"Today we allowed them to open their stores," he adds, walking off. A young boy approximately 12 years old pushes a cart containing the different colored berets and badges of the Palestinian security forces. He points to the badges asking if I want to buy one.

The storekeepers stand on the pavement outside their shops looking in astonishment at the

number of Palestinian security officers patrolling the street.

"Yes we are glad that we can open our stores, but how long will this last?" says the owner of a material shop. Proprietors of the local pharmacy, shoe store and children's clothing store refused to talk, eyeing the Palestinian policemen.

"People are afraid to talk," says Mahmoud Fatafe, pointing to the security men.

Getting around, at least, is less of a problem. "Yesterday I tried to enter Hebron in five different places and the IDF soldiers wouldn't let me in; today there was no problem," said Mohammed, a mathematics teacher.

An Israeli District Coordinating Office officer, Munir, meets with Col. Akid Sharif, the Hebron commander of the National Palestinian Security Forces. As they shake hands, Sharif guarantees that calm will prevail. A crowd surrounds the officers, who talk for several minutes near the huge concrete blocks.

Hebron Municipality inspector Mofid Za'adi appears pleased with the current Palestinian Police presence. "It is much better like this. The young boys are bored but it is good the police are here."

A small group of boys pick up stones and throw them at the IDF soldiers stationed at the Ya'acoubia school. A group of Palestinian policemen immediately rush towards them, dragging them away. After giving them a stern lecture, they let the boys free.

Suddenly, calls are heard further up the street, and a battery of press photographers and reporters race towards a crowd now forming.

"They arrested the taxi driver who bought the Ma'ariv reporter to Hebron," someone calls out. A pale blue-and-white Palestinian Police jeep reverses into the crowd and the taxi driver is forced into the jeep; several Palestinian policemen jump in before the jeep speeds off.

No one seems to know why he was suddenly arrested. Someone contacts the Israeli DCO, informing them what has happened. "He is an Israeli Arab," says someone else.

Half an hour later, Soli, the taxi driver, returns accompanied by Palestinian policemen.

The Israeli DCO officer, accompanied by other IDF officers, arrives and talks with his Palestinian counterpart. Soli walks towards him and the Israeli officer questions him. Soli's cellular phone has not been returned to him and after a brief exchange between the Israeli and Palestinian officers he gets it back.

Two members of the TIPH international observer team had been standing on the pavement, the whole morning, surveying the scene. Now they approach Soli, questioning him about his arrest.

"Are you all right, did they treat you well?" one of the observers asks. "Would you give us your name so we can register the incident?"

Soli shakes his head, telling the observers he is fine, and walks towards his car. One of the reporters standing around says "they [the Palestinian Police] thought he was an undercover soldier."

Walking back through the bustling market, heading towards the Jewish houses on the other side of the gate, several children throw stones at an IDF officer talking to reporters leaving the market. The children run away.

On the other side of the gate, next to Beit Hadassah, groups of IDF soldiers enjoy the brief respite from the riots, but are ready and alert lest someone throw a firebomb or stones, breaking the tense calm that prevails.

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The Ministry of Science
Human Cloning: Risks and Benefits
The Ministry of Science is holding a Symposium for the scientific community and the general public to examine the scientific, medical, ethical, legal and Halachic aspects of human cloning.
The Symposium will take place on Sunday, July 20, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. at the Israel Arts and Science Academy, Derech Massuah, Jerusalem.
The Symposium is being held in conjunction with an international seminar on "Ethics in Science and the Humanities," which is sponsored by the Society for Excellence Through Education.
Lectures
Prof. Moshe Shani (Agricultural Research Authority) - Animal Cloning - Scientific Breakthrough in Agricultural Biotechnology
Prof. Michel Revel (Weizmann Institute of Science) - Medical and Ethical Aspects of Human Genetic Cloning
Rabbi Dr. Yigal Shafran (Chief Rabbinate of Israel) - Halachic Aspects
Intermission - light refreshments
Prof. Asa Kasher (Tel Aviv University) - Genetic Cloning and Duplication - Ethical Aspects
Advocate Na'ama Weltchener (Haifa University) - Human Genetic Cloning - Legal Aspects
Open Discussion
With Prof. Ruth Guttman (Hebrew University), Dr. Avi Livnat (Ministry of Health) and the lecturers
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The public is invited
Israel Arts and Science Academy, near the zoo and opposite Beit Hachochem
Simultaneous translation into English will be available.
For further details call 02-675-5100

IDF

Continued from Page 1

One member of the cell is suspected of planting a pipe bomb in a garbage can in Petah Tikva earlier this year. The bomb failed to explode.

They also confessed that they planned to steal weapons from soldiers and settlers and use them in future attacks, the army said. Most of the attacks they are accused of committing involved boobytrapping Israeli installations, such as equipment belonging to Bezeq or the Electric Corporation, and then setting off bombs when IDF soldiers and technicians arrived.

The cell began its activities in 1993, and its members were mainly involved in disturbances. Some of them had been jailed for such activity in the past. After their release in 1995, they returned to Hamas activities and even recruited more members into the cell. So far, 16 have been arrested and are from the villages of Bidya, Deir Balut, Tzarta, and Zavia.

Minister of Defense Yitzhak Mordechai convened the "territories forum" yesterday and instructed senior IDF commanders to relay to the Palestinian Authority police forces on all levels Israel's grave displeasure over the involvement of Palestinian police in attacks against Israel.

The territories forum is made up of the top IDF commanders, police and General Security Service heads, key intelligence officers, and the heads of the Central and Southern commands.

Mordechai said the security measures being taken now would remain in effect and that Israel was waiting to see what steps the PA was taking. Israel has demanded the arrest of a senior PA security official in Nablus, but so far the Palestinians have rejected it.

IDF soldiers have reportedly been put under special alert in the territories against possible kidnappings. Military sources said IDF forces were conducting special actions in the West Bank, but would not elaborate. Earlier this week the IDF instructed settler leaders to tell residents in the territories to exercise more caution amid warnings that Palestinian extremists wanted to target them.

Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, who handed over command yesterday of the IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, said Israel would not tolerate any attacks made by Palestinian police. He said that cooperation with the PA forces was essential.

"No one is out to get the PA or the Palestinian Police. We are holding meetings when necessary. The liaison offices are continuing to operate. But we, the IDF, and the General Security Service, will not allow Palestinian police, no

matter how senior their rank, to lead hostile attacks against the IDF," Ofir said. "It is inconceivable."

Reacting to rumors that the Palestinians were planning on kidnapping an IDF soldier in order to negotiate the release of the three Palestinian policemen arrested on their way to attack the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha, Ofir said their arrest did not justify the kidnapping of IDF soldiers. He said he hoped that no organization would consider carrying out such an attack and certainly not with the backing of the PA.

Ofir was speaking following the transfer of command of the IDF Forces in Judea and Samaria to Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan. The ceremony was held at the unit's headquarters near Beit El. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan praised Ofir and noted he was passing on command to Eitan during a period that was as difficult as "taking hold of a stretcher in the middle of an incline." Ofir is slated to be named the next OC Homefront Command.

In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, the IDF captured eight Palestinians as they were trying to sneak into Israel. The eight were handed over to the police for questioning. Since the beginning of the month, over 100 Palestinians have been caught trying to infiltrate into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

LOADED

Continued from Page 8

The other problem was the relative inarticulateness of Tafra's acquaintances. His brothers and friends could not find words to describe the things he was interested in, or how they spent their leisure time.

They could barely recall any objective facts about Tafra, for example, the name of the guard company where he was employed, or what he did when he first came to Israel. So lost do they appear with regard to the world around them that they did not know the name of the wide boulevard bordering their neighborhood, where the taxi dropped Tafra off on the way to his premature death.

They said over and over again that Tafra was "always smiling and joking." His father, a thin, wrinkled, graying man with a short beard, said Tafra, his oldest child, was "my support. He always helped me. When I or his mother was sick, he was the first to lend a hand. When he worked, he gave us money. Since he was killed, I, and the whole family, feel lost."

"Until now, I had faith in the government and the state. Today, I don't know who to believe in. Tafra was the one who led me to

Israel. He carried the younger children on his back. I got here thanks to him."

Tafra spent his first six months in Israel at an ulpan in Ofakim, and then studied Hebrew for another six months at Nitzana. He then went to the Kanot agricultural boarding school near Ashdod, but dropped out after two months and found work in a factory to help out his family. He

was a relative newcomer, and so on. Empty beer bottles were piled along the outer wall of the building where they sat and crates with more empty bottles were stashed in a nearby storage room.

"You have to understand that they are in mourning," said 24-year-old Worki Kasyi, spokeswoman for the Association for the Advancement of the

are relative newcomers, and so on.

As the years go by, says association director Ruth Paz, the differences within the community grow wider.

Nevertheless, "when it comes to mourning, emotions dominate and all the inner divisions are forgotten," said Kasyi. "It is extremely powerful."

It is not only grief that binds the more successful and the less successful among the Ethiopians, the better educated and the less well educated, the articulate and the less-articulate. It is also anger and resentment at what all, to one degree or another, regard as discrimination against them based on color.

Kasyi, who, among her many achievements was the first Ethiopian female immigrant to become an IDF officer, puts it delicately:

"The police acted hastily," she said. "Even when it comes to Arabs, they are not so quick on the trigger."

Moshe Behata is blunter. Six months ago, police killed an Ethiopian in Ashkelon. Now they've killed Tafra.

"It could never happen in a democratic society that police would fire 11 bullets into a man who did not threaten anyone," he said. "It looks like the police need this kind of thing. In the past, they did the same in Ashkelon. In Ashkelon, they turn a blind eye to all the dangerous criminals and, instead, find an Ethiopian, shoot him and win a medal of valor. Maybe that's the logic."

"They find some poor guy who doesn't threaten anyone and kill him in cold blood. That way they can show what a good job they're doing. It's the only way I can explain what happened that night."

"Until now, I had faith in the government and the state. Today, I don't know who to believe in."

—Asmamo Behata

became a guard after completing his army service last year and planned — of all things — to become a policeman.

Making the acquaintance of Behata's family and friends, who were still gathered in mourning outside their apartment building, adds another dimension to the tragedy, because they contradict the stereotype of the Ethiopians as smiling, congenial and wanting to please on the outside, while hurt and suffering inside.

The mourners were sullen, sus-

Ethiopian Family and Child in Israel, which has been operating in Beersheba for 15 years. "Perhaps they are suspicious because their son was killed by the police. They may be afraid the police will take vengeance if they talk."

"Also, they are disillusioned with the press. Each reporter has written something different." But Kasyi, who has just completed her first year of social-work studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, acknowledges that many Ethiopians are often mistrustful of outsiders — including Ethiopians.

"Even though I am myself a member of the community, people will be suspicious of me if I come to their house to conduct a survey," she said.

There are also vast differences within the community — between those who come from Amhara and those who come from Tigray, those who have been here many years and those who

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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM

The Embassy of the United States of America in Tel Aviv and the Consulate General of the United States in Jerusalem announce the 1997 Regional Professional and Technical Cooperation Program (REPTEC), a small grants program designed to provide seed money for significant projects fostering non-governmental and private institutional cooperation among Palestinians and Israelis; Jordanians and Egyptian participation is also welcome. The emphasis will be on innovative technical and professional cooperative programs fostering people-to-people contacts. All projects must demonstrate the likelihood that funding will lead to a sustainable future relationship among the cooperating organizations and institutions.

The program review committee seeks a balanced portfolio of projects addressing health, education economic and trade, social and natural sciences, the media, and other appropriate areas with an emphasis of broadening and deepening technical and professional contact among Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians. No allocation of funds among priorities has been made.

The projects supported by REPTEC should be completed within 18 months of grant's award. Grant amounts in 1996 ranged from \$4,000 to \$40,000. A total of \$250,000 is anticipated to be available in 1997.

Interested parties should request the program guidelines at the following address:

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ECON/Section
American Embassy
71 Hayarkon Street
Tel Aviv 63903

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מכזרים תל אביב

MIDDLE ISRAEL



By BEN-ZION BEN-HAIM

More than half a millennium since a wandering beggar was kidnapped, drugged and dumped alive into a bridge foundation in Poland's Vistula River, bridges still have the ability to haunt, fascinate and inspire us all at once.

Most of this paper's worldly readers have crossed bridges like those linking the Hudson's New York and New Jersey banks, or Istanbul's European and Asian halves, and must have been struck by a sense of awe at these immense, hanging structures.

In fact, though they were intended to manipulate nature for our own ends, bridges have traditionally elicited fear of nature's wrath, on the assumption that the very attempt to surmount obstacles created by God Himself would result in calamity.

That is why, for instance, Talmudic sage Rabbi Shimon

Bridge over troubled shtetl

Ben-Lakish taught in *Tractate Shabbat* that men ought to scrutinize themselves before crossing a bridge, or why the ancient Romans placed religious ritual in the hands of those they called "bridge builders," or why the pope's full title, Pontifex Maximus, means "the great bridge builder."

And so, at the end of this heart-breaking week, there is a strong temptation to suggest that we, too, have merely fallen prey to the ghastly whims of yet another river, bridge and force majeure.

Yet in reality we fell prey to nothing but our infamous scorn for order, discipline, standards and authority, an attitude which originated in the shtetl and which a century of Zionist endeavor — so tastelessly celebrated on the Ramat Gan Stadium lawn — has clearly failed to eradicate.

For one thing, the water body in question, while heavily polluted, is no Hudson, Danube or Volga; in fact it hardly passes for a creek. And as for that bridge, the few meters it spanned until its thunderous collapse would hardly have allowed it to qualify even as a distant foster relative of, say, the Golden Gate, Verrazano or

London bridges. Indeed, unlike those ancient

bridge-superstitious, we now cannot find in God's warm bosom the kind of comfort we would seek there in the aftermath of an earthquake, a tornado or even a terrorist attack. This disaster is all our own making.

It begins with the organizers, who appear to have failed to adequately describe to the contractors they hired what they actually needed. It continues with the engineers, whose makeshift structure resembled a boy scout's trampoline more than a platform over which thousands of athletes were to march in the national TV spotlight. It ends with the police and municipality for failing to look into the engineers' and organizers' credentials and plans.

This disregard for standards, which so many of us know from our workplaces, was manifest in the gross failure of the engineers to abide by the official pressure-prescriptions of 500 kgs. per sq.m.

The disregard of discipline surfaced in the failure of the Maccabiah organizers to fine-tune the athletes' march, so that only a limited number would board that stork-legged platform at a time.

And the pathetic face of Israeli authority revealed itself within

the performance of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who claims to have said the opening ceremony should be canceled "immediately upon learning there were casualties." If that's what he said, then why wasn't he obeyed? And if he hadn't heard of the first fatality until the decision was taken to proceed with the ceremony, how come he didn't know at the time what any radio listener and TV viewer had already learned?

Ironically, once the controversial decision was taken and the opening ceremony commenced, its focus was Zionism's centennial anniversary.

When contrasted with the anarchy displayed by the event's organizers, the sound-and-light show on the lawn provided timely food for thought regarding the extent to which Zionism has attained its goals.

Yes, the Jews have a place under the sun. Yes, yesterday's oppressed communities are pretty much free to go wherever they please. And yet, the so-called Muscles Jewry, which the Maccabiah's inferiority-complexed initiators had dreamt about back in the 1930s, has since then come to impress the whole world with its military vic-

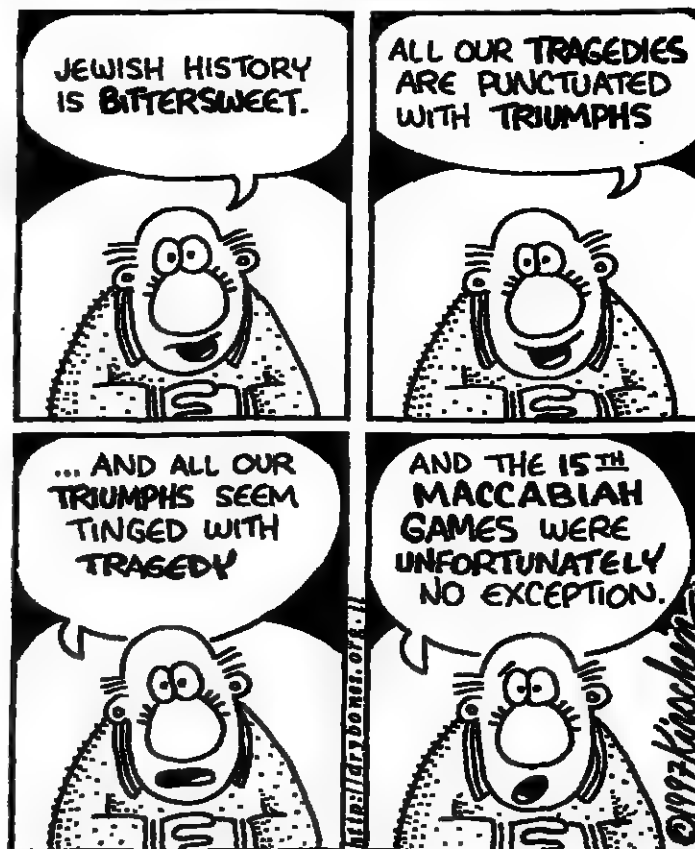
tories. Yet when it comes to its civilian norms, the Jewish state has yet to emerge from its shtetl roots.

Sadly, that may be the lasting, didactic effect of this calamity on the thousands of Western Jews who came here to participate in the games.

When traveling our perennially clogged highways, when searching in vain for non-existing train routes to Jerusalem or Eilat, when gazing at their suicides during an endless wait at Ben-Gurion Airport, and when fathoming yet another of our fatal car accidents, Western Jews should think whether all this should not redefine their Zionist agenda.

For 50 years affluent Jews sought ways to ensure Israel's physical existence. Now that we have a fine army and a solid economy, they may want to shift that material focus to an educational one, and seek ways to help us improve our civil norms, lest this makeshift society of refugees ends up with a similar fate to that of its makeshift bridge. Perhaps then Israel will start treating its public domain as the Holy of Holies, the way Australia, France, Britain or the US do, and not like enemy territory, as our forefathers in the shtetl did.

Dry Bones



A VIEW FROM NOW



By MOSHE KOHN

US foreign policy makers and Israel's Oslo conciders would do well to read and take to heart the message of James Thurber's tale of "The Bear Who Let It Alone," recounted in his *Fables for Our Time*.

The bear, who could take liquor or let it alone, was in the habit of taking too much. He would get drunk and reel home at night, kick over the umbrella stand, knock down the bridge lamps, and ram his elbows through the windows. Then he would collapse on the floor and lie there till he went to sleep. His wife was greatly distressed, and his children were very frightened.

Eventually, he saw the error of his ways and reformed, becoming "a famous teetotaler and a persistent temperance lecturer." He would tell all visitors how fit he had become since giving up drink. To demonstrate, "he would stand on his head and on his hands and he would turn cartwheels in the house, kicking over the umbrella stand, knocking down the bridge lamps, and ramming his elbows through the windows. Then he would lie down, tired by his healthful exercise, and go to sleep. His wife was greatly distressed and his children were very frightened."

The moral of the story: "You might as well fall flat on your face as lean over too far backward."

Too often has the US fallen on its face as other people's fence-mender by leaning over too far backward (if you can imagine this oxymoronic contortion), badly twisting its back in the process. And too often

How not 'not to take sides'

in the past five years have our own leaders turned cartwheels, as it were, in the sustained effort to allay the hunger of the "Greater Palestine" advocates.

The Americans' contortions seem to be motivated by the naive American notion that all problems involving all people of all cultural backgrounds can be resolved with just a little show of good faith. All that is needed is for the parties to sit down, lay their cards on the table and talk things over.

This assumes, of course, that all sides to all disputes have the same concept of good faith as understood by what in American rhetoric (and in certain Jewish apologetics) is called "the Judeo-Christian tradition."

This is utter nonsense, of course, even if it be what that tradition calls "well meaning." It is dangerous nonsense, which has cost human lives over the decades, and has sometimes made America a laughing stock. But Americans seem innately unable to learn that most of the world does not function according to that tradition and does not necessarily accept, or even understand, the "Judeo-Christian" concept of fair dealing.

Americans, moreover, make a great to-do about evenhandedness. But they often reduce — rather, magnify — this concept to absurdity: The problem will be solved and peace will prevail only if the self-appointed umpire treats the aggressor and the victim or prospective victim evenhandedly, as though both are equally aggressors or victims.

The latest manifestation of this was State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns's July 3 press briefing in Washington.

Burns delivered a long and passionate denunciation of Titania Susskind's Mohammed-pig cartoon, which had sparked Arab violence in Hebron. He mentioned the profuse apologies for the cartoon extended by Israeli leaders (the Sephardi chief rabbi even went to Hebron to apologize to the local supreme Islamic

authority).

But Burns equated the Arabs' aggression with the Israeli security forces' provisional attempts to quell it. Moreover, he equated the violent rioting of large groups of Arabs, helped and encouraged by, and sometimes with the participation of, Palestinian National Authority officials, with the acts of Jewish individuals or tiny bands acting on their own.

Burns said the US "encourage[s] Palestinians and Israelis to put aside the violence in Hebron — I mean the violence on both sides.... Both Israelis and Palestinians have responsibility for what is happening [and] for bringing this situation away from violence in the streets and back to the negotiating table.... [I]f we allow [these acts] to be an impediment [to peace], then we are playing into the hands of these sick extremists on both sides who want to continue violence and who don't want peace to be achieved....

"We are not going to take sides here.... [B]oth sides have an obligation to restrain themselves and to send public signals that will bridge differences and not expand the divisions that are obvious in Hebron today."

"We are not going to take sides here...." (Thanks to Yisrael Medias of Israel's Media Watch organization for the Burns text.)

I WOULDN'T want President Bill Clinton ever to have regrets over his policy as Dwight Eisenhower did over having compelled Israel to retreat from Sinai after we overran it in our 1956 Operation Kadesh ("Sinai Campaign").

In 1965, five years after his retirement from his two-term presidency, Eisenhower told Max Fisher, a long-time UJA leader and Republican Party stalwart: "Looking back at Suez, I regret what I did. I never should have pressured Israel to evacuate the Sinai."

Richard Nixon reported that "Eisenhower many years later, in the

1960s, told me ... that he thought that the action that was taken at Suez was one he regretted ... a mistake."

(See *Quiet Diplomacy: Max M. Fisher — A Biography* by Peter Golda, N.Y., Herzl Press. Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner, codirector of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis.)

PA VIOLATIONS of Oslo continue apace. Here are a few:

• The PA police's July 5 violent invasion of the Abraham's Oak Monastery in Hebron belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, the so-called "White Russian Church."

• Continued refusal to permit Jews to resume praying at, or even to visit, the remains of the ancient synagogue in Gaza.

• The declared intention to forbid Jews to pray inside the Machpela Cave ("Tombs of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs") in Hebron.

• Continued anti-Jewish incitement, including the publication of blatant lies and canards concerning Jewish history and culture and Jewish life today. The lies and slanderers include all echelons of the PA leadership and bureaucracy, from Chairman Yasser Arafat on down, and Arab academicians, artists and so-called intellectuals here and abroad.

A recent example is the nonsense excreted over the Palestinian Authority Television station by an alleged Palestinian historian and an alleged geographer. According to them, the events of the Tanach took place mainly in Yemen; the biblical "Israelites" were Arab tribes; the "Ashkenazi Jews who arrived in Palestine" are descendants of the Khazars and have "no connection [with] the Jews of the earlier periods"; there are "no Hebrew remnants" in Eretz Yisrael.

Such are our "peace partners." (Thanks to IMRA codirector Dr. Aaron Lerner and the Government Press Office.)

E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il. Please include your home address.

SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"Come now, therefore, I pray you, curse me this people, for they are too mighty for me..." (Num. 22:6)

This week's portion of *Balak* introduces us to curses, sorcerers and blessings. Balak, king of Moab, witnesses the defeat of the Amorite nation at the hands of the Israelites. Israel had made a simple request of the Amorites, to pass through their land, promising to remain strictly on the king's highway. The request was denied. The Amorites then gathered forces and attacked the Jews, who turned the tables, staging a stunning victory and conquering much land. *Ethics of the Fathers* lists Balak's donkey as having been one of the phenomena created at twilight of the first primordial Sabbath.

Does this then mean that if the Jews had been cursed by Balak, they would have had good reason to tremble?

According to the commentary of Don Isaac Abarbanel (1437-1508), there is no efficacy to a human curse. But the events of our Torah reading transpire in the context of the mentality of the nations of the region, who clearly did believe in the power of a curse. Therefore Balak's negative utterance, even if eventually proven worthless, would have provided the nations with a psychological boost.

Joseph ibn Caspi (1279-1340) goes one step further. He agrees that there is no objective power to a sorcerer's curse. But since the Jews were still imprinted with their slavery experience, they could easily be subject to a primitive belief in the power of sorcery. And the last thing the Jews in the desert needed was the fear that they were a cursed nation. Therefore God, in His love for His people, preempts Balak by turning the curses into blessings.

Prof. Nehama Leibowitz, citing the little known Midrash Hatorah of Rabbi Anselm Astruc of Barcelona, explains that even if there is no objective power to a curse, subsequent Jewish history has been so filled with tragedies that later generations might have attributed our suffering to the curse of Balak. Were this to happen, the next step might have

Balaam's talking donkey

Parshat Balak

been the abandonment of our faith in God.

I'd like to consider two more ways of looking at this strange tale of a talking donkey. First, it seems obvious that the central message of the story is precisely the point that there is no power in the words of a sorcerer. Our Torah portion makes it clear that the ultimate power resides exclusively with God: If He so chooses, He can close the eyes of the greatest sorcerer, and open the mouth of a stupid donkey! And should there still remain a lingering doubt as to the effectiveness of a human curse against Israel, the issue is laid to rest in the following declaration of Balaam: "Surely there is no enchantment with Jacob, nor is there any divination with Israel." (Num. 23:23)

There is a second point to the story, one which seals down the ultimate point of our existence as a holy nation of "priests-teachers." Balaam is considered the wisest of gentiles, and it is his desire — and in his best interest — to curse the Jewish people. In the end, he who came to curse remained to bless — and not only because God forced him to do so. The modesty and uprightness of the Israelite encampment inspired him to such an extent that the blessing burst from his mouth.

The Torah is therefore using this opportunity to teach the Jews one of its most important lessons: When faced with evil "sorcerers" whose tongues have the power to write history, our task is to create the conditions that will force them to acknowledge our good deeds and modest behavior, transforming the sorcerer's curse into words of praise. "How goodly are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel!" (Num. 24:5)

The ultimate vocation of the Jew is to sanctify God's name among the gentiles, even in hostile environments. "I shall be made great and holy among the nations of the world," says the prophet Ezekiel, and the blueprint for this task can be found in our portion. There is no greater *Kiddush Hashem* — sanctification of God's name — than when a hired gun comes to grips with the enormous contributions of Jewish civilization.

Shabbat Shalom

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Syria aims to settle old debts

GRAPEVINE

On the ball

These days, Israeli military commanders face a conundrum as they look toward their northern border.

The puzzle is Syria. On paper, the Syrian military is weak, far weaker than when it launched the surprise attack in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The Syrians have fewer tanks, far fewer fighter-jets, an aging air defense system and an outdated Soviet military doctrine.

That's why they're proceeding with what Israeli and Arab sources agree is an ambitious program of rearmament. President Hafez Assad is focusing on strengthening Syria's armored corps and amassing a missile arsenal meant to launch a punishing attack on Israel and defend against Israeli Air Force raids on Damascus.

"We are following developments," Air Force Commander Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Elihu says. "We are examining the possibility that there will be unexpected developments."

At the same time, the Syrians are busy training their forces. Intelligence sources say Syrian troops last month completed a series of maneuvers and exercises aimed at punching through Israeli defenses on the Golan Heights. The sources say the success of the exercises appears to give Assad the option of a limited war against Israel although they don't see evidence of such a move taking place imminently.

"Assad wants the Golan back during his lifetime," an intelligence officer says. "He is willing to get it back peacefully, but he is preparing a military option as well."

The Syrian exercises included the fortification of Scud B and Scud C

Looking toward Russia as a comrade in arms-purchasing, Syria is beefing up its military might, Steve Rodan reports

missile batteries against Israeli air attack. Scud missiles have been transported from one fortified shelter to another in an apparent attempt to outwit the enemy as to which shelters contain missiles and which are empty.

Moreover, the Syrians have stepped up efforts to insert Syrian-made chemical warheads in the estimated 800 Scud Bs and Cs they possess. The Israeli Air Force assesses that by the year 2000 Syria, which by then will have full missile production capabilities, will possess 1,500 surface-to-surface missiles. The focus is on trying to install VX nerve gas in the missile warheads, an effort that Western intelligence sources say has not yet fully succeeded. VX is regarded as the most dangerous of all nerve gases and can remain in the area for several days.

Syria, however, is getting help. Its main supplier is Russia, and already Damascus and Moscow have renewed discussions over the purchase of several models of advanced anti-aircraft missiles, including the SA-12 surface-to-air missile, which Western defense sources say has the capability to intercept enemy missiles.

The discussions are regarded as the most serious since Moscow cut off its weapons supply to Syria in 1991 because it could not repay its \$11 billion debt to Moscow. Israeli military sources assess that Syria

badly needs an advanced Russian anti-aircraft system as a key component of its stepped-up effort to launch a limited surprise attack on the Golan Heights.

During his recent tour of the US, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen.

"Assad wants the Golan back during his lifetime. He is willing to get it back peacefully, but he is also preparing a military option."

Amnon Lipkin-Shahak warned his American counterparts that the Syrian military is increasing its capabilities as well as preparing its officers for war. "Syria is continuing to improve its capability to execute a surprise attack against Israel," he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on June 24.

As IDF commanders see it, Syria, which has thousands of crack com-

mandos on the slopes of Mount Hermon, wants to launch an offensive on the Golan Heights. Damascus might fire missiles at key Israeli installations to prevent a quick call-up of the reserves. The SA-10 and SA-12 would be used to protect Damascus from any retaliatory Israeli air strike.

The SA-12 is an improved version of the SA-10 or the S-300 surface-to-air missile, being sold to Cyprus. The SA-10 is similar to the US Patriot, used unsuccessfully to intercept Iraqi Scud missiles fired toward Israel during the Gulf War, and Western defense sources say the SA-12 is superior to the American system.

"Our information from both the Russians and our own contacts in Moscow is that the SA-12 has interception capabilities of three to four times that of the Patriot," a Western diplomat in Tel Aviv, an expert in Russian arms, says. "This would be the most advanced anti-aircraft technology in the Middle East."

Syria's defense system today is based on the SA-6 and SA-8, the latter shipped to Syria in the early 1980s. Yiftah Shapir, a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies says these systems are outdated.

"They are very old in terms of technology," Shapir says. "Today's technology can easily handle these systems. We are talking about Syria trying to replace the SA-5 with the

SA-10, which can deal with the self-protection systems found in many modern jet-fighters."

According to *Jane's Land Based Defense* publication, the SA-10 has a maximum effective range of 90 km. at a maximum altitude of 30 km. The SA-12 has two models. The A model has a range of 75 km. and the B has a range of 100 km., with a missile interception range of 40 km.

Syria has for years eyed the SA-10. During the March 14 visit of a Russian military delegation to Damascus, headed by Gen. Mikhail Timkin, senior vice president of Russia's state-owned arms export Rosvooruzhenie, the wish became possible. Defense sources say the focus of the visit was to examine the possibility of upgrading Syria's armor and air defense capabilities. The discussions continued during the visit of another Russian military delegation in April.

The Russians want to expand their arms sales and Syria is the likely choice. Sergey Kolchin, a Moscow-based economist, cites Russian Defense Ministry figures that Russian arms exports have jumped from \$2.3 billion in 1992 to \$3.4b. in 1996 and the ministry assesses that the exports will soar to \$10b. by 2000. The developing markets include such countries as Syria, Iran, Egypt and the Gulf, as well as the Far East and Latin America.

"Hopes are placed mainly in the Near East market where there exist solid traditions of Russian arms purchasing," Kolchin writes in the Moscow-based *Rabochaya Tribuna*. "Syria remains a traditional partner."

The Jaffee Center's Shapir agrees. "The Russians have no ideological problems selling the SA-12 to the Syrians," he says. "They can easily present this as a defensive weapon. The fact that they have not done this is because of financial considerations. The main problem is the old debt of Syria to Russia. The Syrians are not willing to compromise on this."

The Syrians argue that they have long served Moscow as an ally and provided the former Soviet Union with a port at Latakia along the eastern Mediterranean, benefits that make up for the arms sales during the 1970s and 1980s. Their argument has evoked empathy in the Russian Foreign Ministry, which under the tutelage of Yevgeny Primakov is lobbying to renew arms sales to Syria as a way for Russia to revive its influence in the Middle East. Indeed, in April 1994, the Foreign Ministry pushed through an agreement to renew weapons sales to Damascus — an accord that has not yet been implemented by the Russian arms industry.

The details are still unclear but Gulf Arab sources say the problem of Syria's debt to Russia is slowly being resolved. Based on two meetings of Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Haddam with Gulf leaders this year, the sources have told US officials that since 1992 Iran and Saudi Arabia have been steadily repaying the Syrian debt to Moscow. They estimate that as much as two-thirds of the debt has been repaid and the rest is being conditioned on renewing Russian arms purchases to Syria.

Other Arab sources say Russia has informally agreed to forgive two-thirds of the Syrian debt. Last March, Iranian Defense Minister Mohammed Forouzandeh said Iran will "participate in a project to modernize Syrian military equipment as part of the defense agreement concluded between Damascus and Tehran. The Syrian army has been upgrading its capability and acquiring advanced technology."

Russian officials deny the reports that the Syrian debt is being eliminated. Indeed, some of them appear resigned to the likelihood that Damascus will never pay its debt. "In such a case, better we keep selling them and make some money rather than not make anything at all," one Russian diplomatic source says.

The Gulf diplomatic sources say under a new arrangement, Syria can now order weapons from Russia for cash, some of which would be allotted to repay past debts. The sources say Syria's Haddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa jointly visited the Gulf countries and asked for financial assistance in January and in May.

Despite the activity, US officials say Syria is far from ready for war. Some leading Arab analysts agree, insisting that Syria's Assad still has not given up hope on US efforts to facilitate a settlement with Israel. At the same time, pointing to Saudi Arabia's economic difficulties, they are skeptical whether Syria will obtain the Gulf funding for new arms deals.

"Hafez Assad and Abdul Halim Haddam have not taken the decision that war is coming," Nasser Eddin-Nashashibi, a prominent Arab analyst and former adviser to several Arab governments, says. "I think Assad is committed strategically to peace. He has enough troubles with Lebanon and the Turks. I don't think a wise man like Assad would wage war when his allies are less numerous than his enemies."

He wasn't the guest of honor, but youngsters who recognized Uncle Perry at the farewell luncheon for Kareem Abdul Jabbar at the Tel Aviv Sheraton made an instant beeline for the ex-hoopster, who obligingly put aside his plate to sign autographs. Also besieged by basketball zealots, Jabbar was somewhat more aloof than Perry, though when it came to the speeches he admitted to having been "seriously impacted by your hospitality, generosity and willingness to try to please."

For American-born Mylan Tanzer, head of the Sports Channel, who grew up watching NBA players, the visit by the NBA top scorer was a dream come true. Other NBA fans who came to get close to the Great One included local star hoopster Tal Brody, television talk show host Yair Lapid, comedians Menahem Zilberman, and Avi Kushnir, radio broadcaster Eli Israeli, Jerusalem Capital Studios head Gabi Rosenberg and Miss America Dana DeLozier, whom hardly anyone recognized.

THOSE WHO know only the serious side to Yitzhak Rabin, senior aide to Minister of Transport Yitzhak Levy were delightedly surprised to discover at the Klezmer Festival in Safed that Rabin is also a talented dancer, who can balance a beer bottle on his head while whirling and twirling in all directions. The revelation took place at the *fish* on the patio of Habad House, where Rabin temporarily lost his National Religious Party identity after donning a Habad kapota.

AMONGST the many performers at the Klezmer Festival was Gregory Lev, a relatively recent immigrant from Russia. When Festival artistic director Shaul Mayzlish accompanied Lev back to Moscow to watch him perform there, his wife asked him to bring back a Russian cookbook. Thinking that he might be in need of an interpreter, Mayzlish took



Haim Yavin swaps stations. (Israel Sun)

Lev to the bookstore with him. When Lev asked for cookbooks, the storekeeper, without batting an eye, said: "Spy stories, second floor, second shelf on the left."

"That," said Mayzlish, "is what a cookbook is in Russia."

FORMER Labor leader Shimon Peres, US ambassador Martin Indyk and Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny never seem to tire of talking to each other. The three were tete-a-teteing at the Bastille Day reception hosted by French ambassador Jean-Noel de Boillane de Lacoste at his splendid Jaffa residence. Among those present was the ever elegant Philippines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio Santos who the previous evening hosted a reception replete with a Philippine dance troupe in honor of recently appointed Philippine Honorary Consuls Alfred Akirov and David Efrati.

A FREQUENT flier between Israel and Poland in his capacity as vice chairman of the executive of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, Naftali Lavie, elder brother of Ashkenazi chief rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, will have a different reason for visiting Poland at the end of September. The week before Rosh Hashana will see the launch of the Polish edition of his autobiography, which will be published simultaneously in England and the US. Lavie recently presented Lau, who was the youngest Buchenwald survivor, with an unusual gift for his 60th birthday — his birth certificate from Poland.

ANOTHER Israeli with Polish roots, Mordechai Palzur, who has just returned from a vacation in Poland. Palzur, who was Israel's first ambassador to Poland, was invited to meet with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski. He suggested that Palzur join the committee to establish a new Jewish historical museum in Poland. Palzur has yet to receive an invitation in writing, but he has already intimated an



Kareem Abdul Jabbar, besieged by fans (Mel Brickman)

affirmative response.

SOME thousand well-wishers and supporters crowded into the Dan Accadia hotel to honor Belz Hassid Avraham Elimelech Frier, founder of the medical support organization Ezra Le'Marpeh. Frier is a self-educated medical expert whose uncanny know-how and know-who have helped thousands of sick people — mostly secular. The event, a fund-raiser organized by Liora Landau, wife of Herzliya mayor Eli Landau, and socialite Margalit Gottesdiner included a public auction of works of art donated by artists Ya'acov Agam, Menashe Kadishman and Shuki Freeman. Among the well known personalities present were Yuli Ofer, who is well-placed in the new Forbes list of the world's richest people, hotelier Eli Papouashado, Ramat Gan mayor Zvi Bar, diamond dealer Moshe Schnitzer, entertainer Meni Pe'er and lots of other glitterati.

IN all the hullabaloo about veteran Channel 1 anchorman Haim Yavin's switch to Channel 2, an important element has been overlooked — Yavin's 65th birthday. It is a shame that Yavin won't be on the ITV payroll on Israel's 50th Independence Day which coincides with ITV's 30th anniversary. Yavin was ITV's first broadcaster and his report, in 1968, was on the Independence Day march.

GREEK ambassador Sotirios Varouxakis, South African ambassador Frank Land, entertainer Hannah Laslo, flying ace Ran Pecker, sculptress Ilana Goor, journalist-author-socialite Odette Schwartz and her fashion model daughter Dana, were among the guests at the Eren Yehuda home of Tehiya Klinger for the launch of Assad, the new catering venture of Kibbutz OrHanor. Also present was American fashion designer Yair Levy, who was so taken by Dana's exotic appearance that he invited her to come to New York in October to model at his next showing.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that he heads the busy cardiac center at Ichilov Hospital, Professor Shimon Laniado still manages to make time for his second passion — writing. Some 60 guests, many of them colleagues, turned out at Gan Oranin for the launch of his new novel *The Doctor's Secret Book*.

ANY excuse is a good excuse for a party especially when your friends are also your customers. The excuse of Nafli Leor chairman of the board and proprietor of



Bruce Springsteen, a dog's best friend (AP)

the Apropos chain of restaurants was simply summertime. Amongst those who came to lunch at his Beit Hannah outlet in Tel Aviv were actresses Igi Waisman and Gilat Ankori, lawyer Penny Don Ythye and businessman Dan Brenner. Palace tempters included sushi and Thai finger food.

JOINING the long list of entertainers who've gone into the food industry is Bruce Springsteen. Unlike his colleagues, Springsteen isn't catering to humans but to dogs. The inspiration for the venture came when his own dog took ill after eating a product purchased at the supermarket. Springsteen has decided to market health food for dogs right across the US. Man is dog's best friend, it seems.

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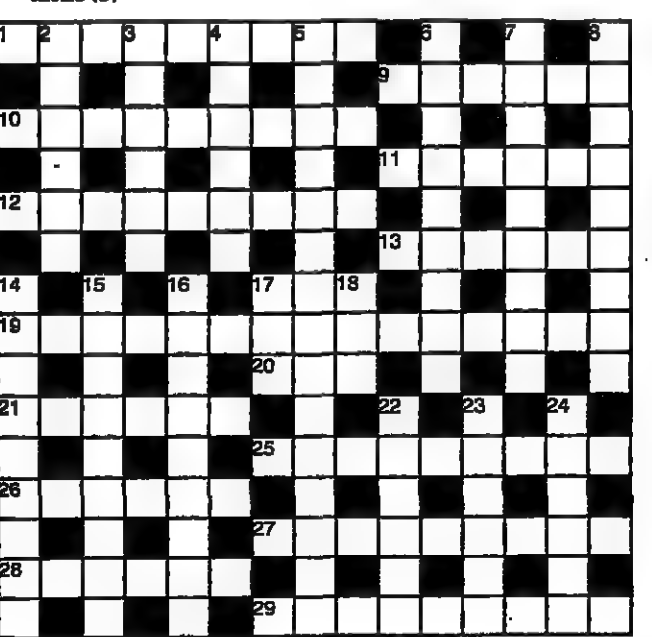
ACROSS

- 1 Greek philosopher is alert to change (9)
- 9 Pill fit for abstainer to swallow (6)
- 10 Lay out money inside, to our glory (9)
- 11 Partition, we hear, eccentric person made out of this wood? (6)
- 12 Something flashy on the road? (9)
- 13 Humiliating failure, if backing a second firm (6)
- 17 Shoot American friend (3)
- 19 Quite a game, finding the second Severn crossing? (6)
- 20 Name old boy as a distinguished character (3)
- 21 SOS! Arm sunk in bog (6)
- 25 When the field is seeded, he stands frighteningly alone (9)

- 26 The whole country is at one in a 'oo' to the French (6)
- 27 Such fierce competition in the razor industry? (3-6)
- 28 Find sun a blessing, to some extent, if without power (6)
- 29 Trembling, lady reset balance (9)

DOWN

- 2 East End murderer, a real tearaway? (6)
- 3 Firm stayed in trouble (6)
- 4 Command to accept in the priesthood (6)
- 5 Show contempt, but don't giggle at judge (5,3,2,5)



SOLUTIONS

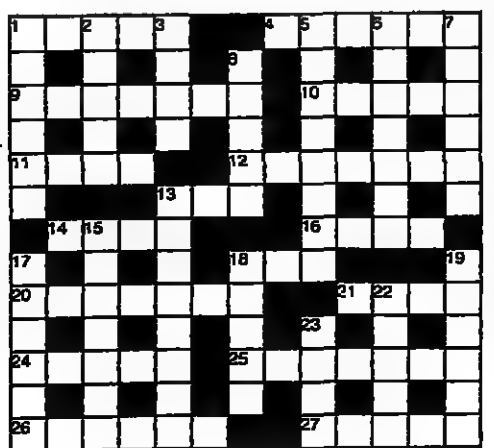
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ACROSS: 1 Goose, 4 Beret, 10 Radiant, 11 Right, 12 Street, 13 Yachting, 14 Late, 17 Screw, 19 Erect, 22 Rude, 25 Synonym, 27 Fever, 28 Exact, 30 Elation, 31 Yacht, 32 Under.
DOWN: 2 Order, 3 Startle, 5 Earth, 6 Eugenie, 7 Cross, 8 Stout, 9 Screw, 14 Need, 16 Awey, 18 Castate, 20 Refrain, 21 Ashes, 23 Umber, 24 Bring, 26 Notch, 28 Voice.

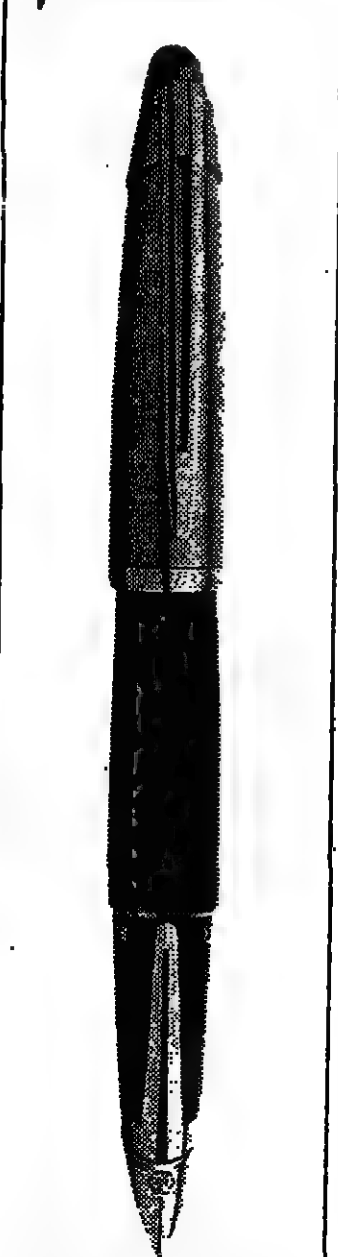
QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 French painter (5)
- 4 Orientals (6)
- 9 Numbers (7)
- 10 13 country (5)
- 11 First officer (4)
- 12 Creatures (7)
- 13 Age (3)
- 14 S American country (4)
- 16 Consumes (4)
- 18 Rotten (3)
- 20 Taste (7)
- 21 Blonde (4)
- 24 Living (5)
- 25 Clothes for cleaning (7)
- 26 Actors exit (6)
- 27 Suffering from ennui (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Visions (6)
- 2 Grand (5)
- 3 Appear (4)
- 5 Animated (6)
- 6 Unyielding (7)
- 7 Most reserved (6)
- 8 Egyptian dam (5)
- 13 eg French (8)
- 15 Inspect (7)
- 17 On fire (6)
- 18 Fish (5)
- 19 Begged (6)
- 22 Viper (5)
- 23 Unable to speak (4)



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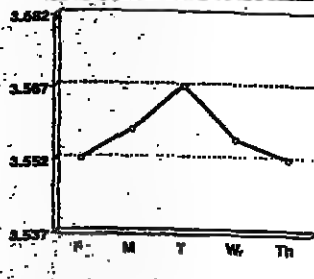
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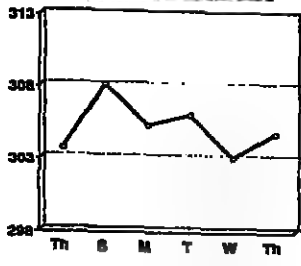
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in brief

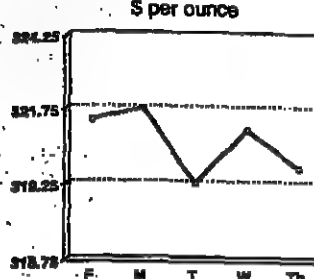
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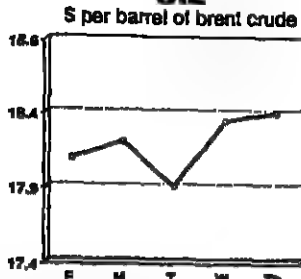
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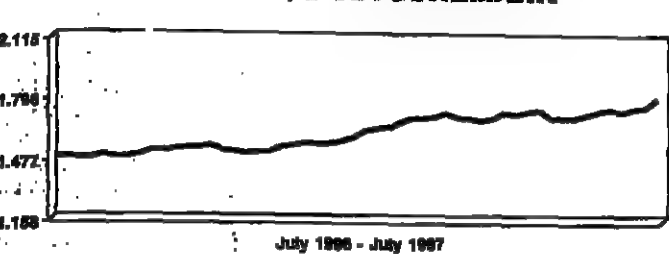
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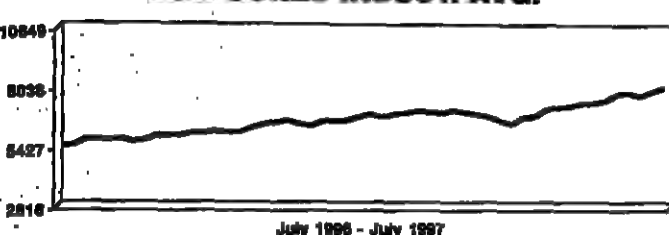
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Paz, Cial Trading in bid for elect. wallet

Paz Oil, in conjunction with Discount Investment Corporation, and Cial Trading, along with Olivetti Israel, both have announced their intention to bid for an electronic wallet tender. Paz and Discount have acquired the franchise rights to distribute Mondex International's electronic wallet solution locally, while Olivetti manufactures an electronic purse that is currently used in Italy. The Antitrust Authority is still in the process of determining which bodies will be allowed to issue a tender for the electronic wallets.

Jennifer Friedman

Gov't cracks down on 057 phone service

The Communications Ministry has begun to crack down on providers of information services over the phone (057) after receiving complaints about license violations. Minister Limor Livnat instructed inspectors to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the 10 companies, including their advertising and ways of supplying information. Critical reports have been prepared on some of the companies, with some of the shortcomings justifying cancellation of their licenses. A few days ago, the ministry disconnected the lines of one of the companies. Chief inspector Haim Haviv recommended that Livnat cancel the licenses of several of the companies and refuse to grant new ones or renew licenses.

Judy Siegel

Treasury adds NIS 200m. to proposed budget cuts

Total cut, NIS 800m., to be debated by government next week

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman will next week present the cabinet with plans for an NIS 800 million budget cut, according to a senior Treasury official.

The proposed cut will include three sections: "The initially agreed NIS 600m. to be axed from government spending in order to achieve the government-set budget deficit target of 2.3 percent of gross domestic product. A further \$50m. of NIS 180m. that former Finance Minister Dan Meridor agreed would be transferred from US aid to Israel to aid to Jordan.

"An anticipated additional NIS 20m., which will be removed from the budgets of various ministries in order to supply new gas masks.

The principle NIS 600m. cut will be divided equally between the ministries at 0.9% of their total budget, with the exception of Defense and Education, where the cut will be 0.4%. Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy confirmed following a meeting yesterday with Ne'eman. The remaining NIS 200m. will be equally divided,

according to the Treasury official.

The Finance Ministry is fighting hard to avoid increasing taxation as part of the cut, according to the official. Earlier this week Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not deny that he is considering a hike in taxes to achieve the cut in government expenditure.

The official also said the government discussion of the budget will in all probability take place on Tuesday. Originally, Netanyahu announced the debate would be held during Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting, but he has since decided a separate discussion would be of greater benefit. Later this month the cabinet is scheduled to begin talks on the 1998 budget.



Yehoshua Matza

(Brian Hendler)



Yitzhak Levy

(Iman Harnet)

long-running battle with the Treasury over payments to the health funds, told reporters following his meeting with Ne'eman that he would not vote against the prime minister, but added that was on the basis of receiving an additional NIS 1 billion next year. "Nothing has been decided yet," said

Later in the day Ne'eman held his first talks with representatives of the Manufacturers Association, headed by its president Dan Propper.

Both the Treasury and Bank of Israel are now openly talking of a budget deficit up to NIS 2b. higher than the target of NIS 9.744b. (excluding granted net credit), and the Treasury now admits it is highly unlikely it will meet its target. However, Treasury sources point out that because of the central NIS 600m. cut this year, the 1998 budget base will be lower, consequently making the anticipated cut next year more achievable. The 1998 budget deficit target is 2.4% of GDP, with the longer-term 2001 target at 1.5% of GDP.

Meanwhile Accountant-General Shai Talmon said yesterday he is hopeful the US aid to Israel will bring in more money than anticipated because of the depreciation of the shekel against the dollar. Israel is scheduled to receive the aid package in October or November, though in previous years the money has not always been delivered at the anticipated time.

Local center gets 10% of HP research budget

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Hewlett-Packard Co. will upgrade its Haifa-based Israel Science Center into a research and development lab. Roland Mattis, the business manager for Hewlett-Packard personal computing in Israel, said yesterday.

The lab will be the company's fourth such installation worldwide.

"This means that we think Israel is a real center of excellence for technology," Mattis said.

Mattis declined to comment on the size of Hewlett-Packard's local investment.

The four research labs will receive between 10% to 20% of the company's \$3.9 billion R&D budget. The remainder will be divided between Hewlett-Packard's product divisions.

The local lab, which will be located in Haifa, will concentrate on developing digital photography, image compression and multimedia performance

analysis tools, Mattis said.

Mattis said the R&D lab's first priority is to locate worthwhile academic research groups and start-ups and to invest in their technologies. Unlike many high-tech giants that look to acquire fledgling companies, Mattis said Hewlett-Packard prefers to invest in assisting them to develop their technologies.

"Sometimes the [company] cultures don't match and sometimes buying a start-up can hurt its creativity," he said, adding that Hewlett-Packard signs 50 technology collaboration deals for every company it buys.

A few weeks ago, Hewlett-Packard granted \$2.5m. worth of research equipment to the Technion.

Some of the inventions that evolved from Hewlett-Packard's R&D labs include the inkjet technology and the first portable computer. The company's other labs are located in Palo Alto, California, Bristol in England and Tokyo.

Mazda importers suspected of NIS 100m. tax evasion

Top executives at Delek Motors, the importers of Mazda, are suspected of creating an intricate tax evasion scheme that allowed them to cheat the Tax Authority out of NIS 100 million in taxes and VAT.

Delek Motors' director-general Michael Ron and deputy director-general Gil Agmon were released yesterday from Jerusalem District Court after posting NIS 5.5m. bail.

After conducting an investigation that took several months, Tax Authority officials said that Delek Motors' importers had avoided paying heavy car taxes by importing cars without air-conditioning units. Delek Motors then inflated the price of the air-conditioning units, which were not

taxed, and declared to the Tax Authority that the air-conditioning units totalled 20% of a car's price, the investigators said.

The company installed the units locally. The importers are also suspected of reporting inflated prices for airbags and braking systems,

which are not taxed.

Earlier this week, investigators searched company offices and houses of the executives and found incriminating documents. Employees also have been called in for questioning.

The suspects deny wrongdoing. (Item)

EU lifts Israel poultry ban

By DAVID HARRIS

The European Union's veterinary committee yesterday agreed unanimously to lift the ban on imports of Israeli poultry, the Agriculture Ministry announced.

The EU had imposed a six-month ban, following the discovery of poultry infected with Newcastle disease in a private coop in the Ashkelon area.

The 15-member committee also decided to award Israel "equal nation" status, which means its poultry imports will be treated in the same way as full EU member nations regarding health checks. The committee granted the same status to Switzerland last year.

During the debate, data was presented suggesting Israeli hygiene and safety standards in the poultry field were equal to those of the EU. Furthermore, Israeli representatives explained the supervisory methods used here and pointed out the independent nature of the inspectors. The Agriculture Ministry team also reported on how they dealt with the outbreak of Newcastle disease.

Furthermore, it was agreed if there is a future outbreak of the disease, only the fowl in the immediate vicinity will not be imported into the EU rather than placing a ban on all poultry. The Israeli group also agreed to improve its supervision techniques to ensure the disease does not spread beyond its immediate environs.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

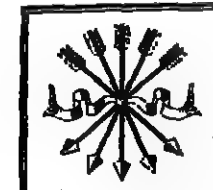
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
German mark (\$250,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
Japanese yen (\$250,000)	1.625	1.625	1.125
Swiss franc (\$250,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.7.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.7909	3.8521	3.48	3.63	3.6238
German mark	3.5206	3.5774	1.82	2.02	3.5250
Japanese yen (100)	1.9597	1.9914	5.975	6.06	1.9776
French franc	5.8725	5.9573	0.57	0.60	5.9151
Swiss franc	0.5802	0.5898	0.37	0.40	0.5857
Italian lire (1000)	3.0309	3.0798	2.87	3.13	3.0521
Dutch florin	1.7402	1.7653	1.71	1.80	1.7559
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4755	2.4136	2.38	2.45	2.3960
Swedish krona	0.4517	0.4590	0.44	0.47	0.4559
Norwegian krona	0.4734	0.4811	0.48	0.49	0.4789
Danish krone	0.5144	0.5227	0.51	0.53	0.5160
Finnish mark	0.6538	0.6747	0.65	0.69	0.6702
Canadian dollar	2.5618	2.6032	2.51	2.64	2.5867
Australian dollar	2.5990	2.6410	2.55	2.68	2.6153
S. African rand	0.7730	0.7855	0.79	0.79	0.7803
Belgian franc (10)	0.9488	0.9642	0.93	0.98	0.9574
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7853	2.8303	2.73	2.87	2.8109
Italian lire (1000)	2.0188	2.0494	1.98	2.08	2.0348
Jordanian dinar	4.8656	5.0457	4.80	5.24	5.0618
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.00	1.1189
EU	3.6578	3.9300			3.8997
Irish punt	5.2827	5.3680	5.19	5.45	5.3280
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3292	2.3668	2.28	2.40	2.3512

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.



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ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

MUSEUMS
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 8 Or He-Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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NEWS

in brief

Abeld petitions against 12-year sentence

Suleiman Abeld yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court against the Beersheba District Court's sentencing him to 12 years' imprisonment for raping Henit Kikos. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court overturned Abeld's conviction for Kikos' murder, only finding him guilty of raping her. The Supreme Court ordered the case returned to the Beersheba District Court, which originally tried Abeld, for the handing down of the sentence on the rape charge. The Beersheba court sentenced him to 12 years, with one judge dissenting. Judge Hendel Sabar said he should be imprisoned for six years. *Itim*

Tel Aviv lifeguards back on the beaches

Tel Aviv lifeguards went back to work yesterday, a day after the municipality brought in privately hired lifeguards to replace the striking veteran workers. The veterans will now work alongside the private lifeguards, and will work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, as worked out by a labor arbitrator. Ten lifeguard stations opened yesterday, and 13 are to open over the weekend. The private guards will continue to work through the end of the summer. *Tam*

Livnat poster suspect claims political probe

David Rechter, chairman of the Otzma Likud group, told Army Radio yesterday that the investigation against him for putting up posters critical of Communications Minister Limor Livnat was politically inspired.

Rechter said the investigation was an attempt to use him to get at the prime minister and the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. He said he put up the signs to show Livnat was undermining the government and the prime minister by not backing their actions.

He denied that Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman was behind the signs, saying, "They're just trying to frame him." *Itim*

Highway No. 1 work to continue

The Antiquities Authority announced yesterday that it had finished mapping out the locations of the burial sites uncovered during work on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Work is to resume, avoiding the burial sites, and is expected to be completed in two weeks. Three graves dating back to the First Temple Period and four burial caves from the Byzantine Period were found. *Itim*

Egypt, Jordan can watch Turkey-Israel maneuvers

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai plans to invite Egyptian and Jordanian officers to observe the joint naval maneuvers to be held later this year between Israel, Turkey and the US. The maneuvers were to have been held this summer, but they have yet to be finalized.

"In general, the minister of defense supports the presence of Egyptian and Jordanian observers during the joint naval maneuvers between Israel, Turkey and the US," a ministry statement said.

The joint maneuvers will focus on sea rescue exercises. Mordechai recently said he would like to see Egypt join in the maneuvers. Egypt has criticized Turkey for its growing defense relations with Israel. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

VEHICLES

Jerusalem

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Public seminar to be held on genetic cloning

A public seminar on genetic cloning will be held on Sunday in Jerusalem and deal with the medical, ethical, legal and halachic aspects of making "copies" of humans. The seminar, which will be open to scientists and the general public, is organized by the Science Ministry, and Science Minister Michael Eitan will participate. The event will begin at 2 p.m. at the School for Sciences and the Arts in Derech Masua, opposite Beit Halohem, in Malha. *Judy Siegel*

PA official: Palestinians worse off under Arafat

By STEVE RODAN

A Palestinian Authority official, expressing concern over internal unrest, said yesterday that Palestinians are worse off now than they were under Israeli rule. PA Deputy Industry Minister Adnan Samara was appealing for Israeli investment in Gaza and the West Bank.

"From our side, we believe the situation is very dangerous," Samara told a meeting of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce in Tel Aviv. "The people haven't seen any results. I believe - I am sorry to say - that people have more difficulties now than before the authority was created. We in the authority are very worried."

Samara's words were a rare public expression of the concern that

PA officials have for the future of the authority. Over the last few weeks, they have reported a sharp drop in public support.

"Everyone who is working in the authority is also thinking of the leader and what he thinks of the action that is being taken," he said.

The meeting, attended by government officials, representatives of the World Bank, and Palestinian industrialists, discussed plans to establish a Palestinian free trade zone at Karni. The plan was announced in 1994, but has been mired in bureaucratic red tape and Israeli insistence on stringent security measures.

Both Palestinian and Israeli officials hope the Karni industrial zone opens by next year. Palestinian officials said the first stage of the project has been fully

Brig-Gen. Baruch Segal, the outgoing deputy government coordinator of the territories, said Karni will mark a dramatic change in Israeli-Palestinian relations. He said by 1998 Israel plans to remove the IDF and Border Police from both the Erez and Karni crossings. The former will become a passage for laborers and visitors; the latter will be meant for cargo.

Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Dan Gillerman suggested that Israeli and Palestinian businessmen establish a council to lobby their governments to ease restriction on bilateral trade. "I believe it is our duty that the standard of living in your part of the world and in our part of the world goes higher," he said. "The higher the standard of living, the lower the level of violence."



50 years later

Sara Klein of Holon and Leah Silashi of Netanya embrace upon seeing each other for the first time in 50 years at the Israeli Child Survivors Conference in Kfar Saba yesterday. Hundreds of survivors attended the conference, which was sponsored by AMCHA. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

FUNDS

Checking the books

By BEVERLEE BLACK

This is the time of year when I am confronted with dozens of requests from distraught parents who are unable to afford school books for their children. For large families, this is an especially heavy burden. You can help by sending a contribution to help these concerned citizens who want to give their children a good education, a first step on the ladder of success.

A special thanks to Nemesio Aldoy of Cleveland, Ohio, who almost every week sends a very generous donation to one of our three funds. Thank you very much Mr. Aldoy. Other readers, please copy!

Keep the checks flowing, and just to remind you, you can also contribute by VISA. Our phone number is (02) 537-6528. Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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 NIS 50 In loving memory of Samuel, Bessie and Lorna Ark of Leeds, England - Sylvia Ark, J'm.
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 NIS 36 In loving memory of our Aunt Betty Sardinsky - Maxine and Larry Shore and family, Rehovot. To honor the

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\$200 In memory of my wife, Bernarda Aldoy - Nemesio Aldoy, Cleveland, OH. \$180 Sy and Rochelle Knaut, Newton, MA.

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\$25 William Windwehr, Teaneck, NJ. Grant Newton, Sylva, NC. \$20 In honor of my husband, Bradford Peter - Carolyn Beske, Albuquerque, NM.

\$18 Louis and Claire Bigguy, Edison, NJ. In memory of our fathers on Fathers Day - Mildred and Irving Sosenstine, Charleston, SC.

\$w.Kr.3,000 One Swedish Krona donated for every Jerusalem year - Mrs. D. Heger, Huddinge, Sweden.

\$250 Dr. Eric N. Glick, England - remembering with loving thoughts and memories - Marjorie, Emma and Richard, Aaron, Rachel, Arik and Joseph.

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\$250 In honor of our son, Jeffrey Charach, and our nieces and nephews - Manny and Natalie

stinians
Arafat

Israel dominates athletics

By JOEL GORDIN

Israel dominated the athletics championships that started last night at Hadar Yosef Stadium with local athletes breaking a number of Maccabiah records.

Israel's promising 19-year-old sprinter Tommy Kafri, who recently broke the national 100-meter mark, bettered the 200m mark when he breasted the tape in 21.29 seconds. He finished ahead of favored Jado Glickman and Scott Driskin of the USA.

Kafri's time was a personal best, but not enough to get him a ticket to next month's world championship in Athens. The minimum required is 21.04 sec.

Long jumper Mark Malisov broke the record with a leap of 7.62m but it is less than the 7.90m required for Athens.

Other Maccabiah record-breakers, all from Israel, were Dorit Ashkenazi who threw the javelin 47.36m, and Tal Mor, who won the boy's 200m in a fast 22.91 sec. Tamar Levav ran a good 21.91 to win the women's 200m, ahead of her rival Galit Meretzky. It was Levav's personal best time. In third place was Russian Maria Enkina.

Veteran Lex Fingert threw the javelin 71.38m to beat his nearest rival, Canada's Leslie Heller, by nearly 16m. Philip Feingold won the 400 hurdles in 52.03 sec, ahead of Matthew Levine of the USA.

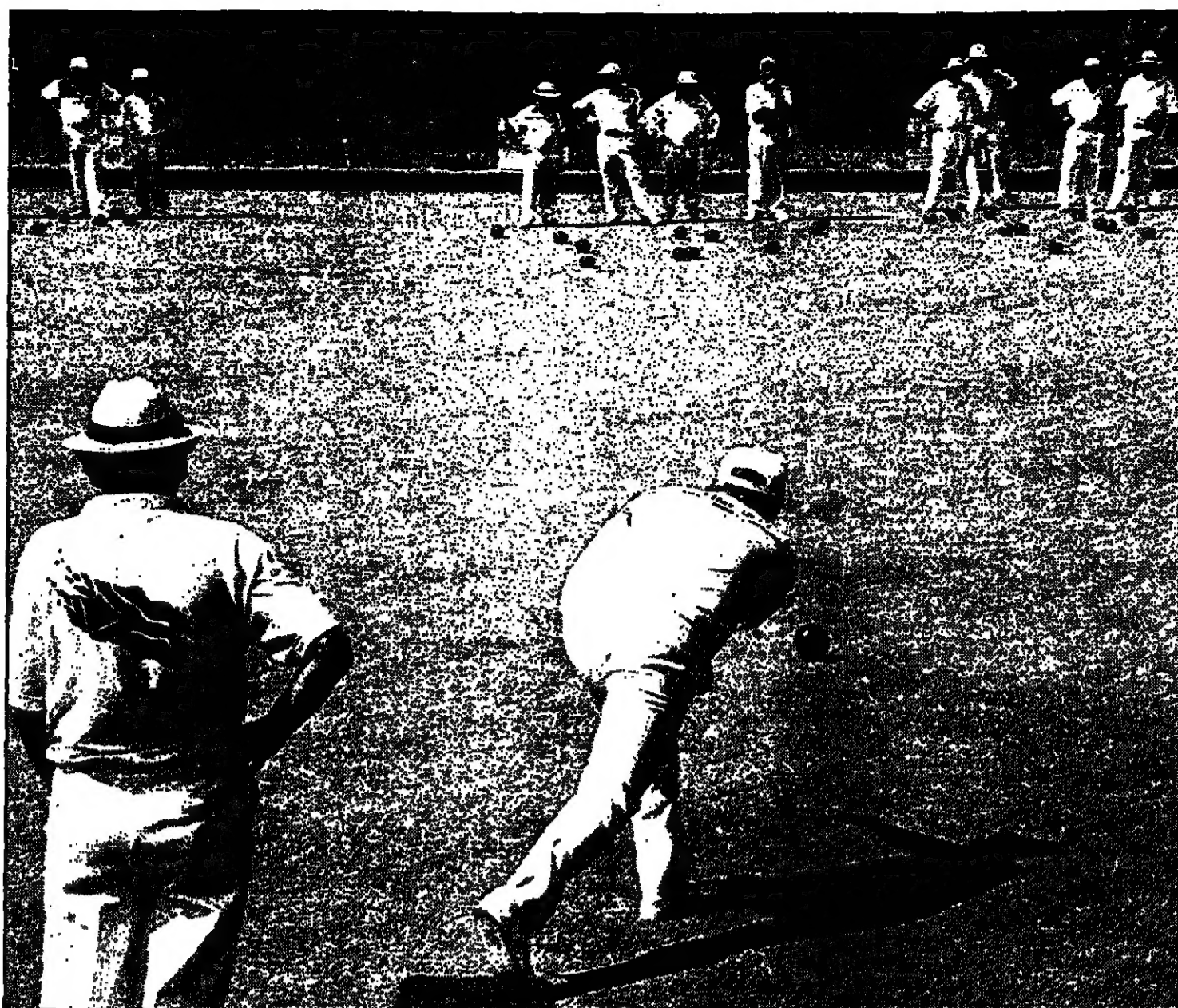
In other women's events, Moran Katz won the long jump in 5.87m while Tzila Katz won the shot put with a 12.68m toss.

Olga Dogadgo won the 400m hurdles in 1:00.29, ahead of another Israeli, Roni Harel (1:05.89) and Canadian Deborah Abelman

(1:10.48). Edri Chen was first in the girl's high jump with a leap of 1.63m.

Among the few diaspora entries to win an event was Shylie Vandelie of Belgium who came in first in the women's 800m. In 2:11.71, Diane Manzeron of Canada won the girls' 200m in 26.56 sec, while Sophie Koehne of the UK won the girls' 800m in 2:18.34.

Athletic commentator and Israel Athletic Association statistician David Eiger said, "There was a time when US, Australian and South African athletes dominated the Maccabiah. However for some years now track and field has ceased to be popular among Jewish communities in the west. On the other hand, the sport received a boost in Israel as a result of the immigration from the former Soviet Union."



IN THE LEAD - Israel's men's bowlers took a clear lead in both the pairs and trips competition yesterday at the Ramat Gan lawn bowls club. With two more rounds today, both of Israel's pairs team (Jeff Rabkin and George Kaminsky) are tied at the top with eight points apiece, followed by Australian Rod Davis with six. Rabkin has an 18-point shot difference advantage. In the trips, Cecil Bransky and Raymond Sher lead with eight points each, followed by Aussie David Sebbag with six. In the women's pairs, Great Britain, led by Gaby Laurence, have seven points. Only South Africa, with two last-round wins, could challenge for the top position. In the trips, Israel's two sides (Maureen Hirschkovitz and Mollie Skudowitz) are tied with four each. Australian Denise Brick also at four, has the advantage of two more rounds.

(Text: Norman Spira, Photos: Ilan Ousembyer/Israel Sun)

Kiwi Judoka fights for justice

By HEATHER CHAIT

It was one man taking on the system and winning. Judoka Robert Levy, the one-man delegation to the Maccabiah from New Zealand, struck a blow for justice on Wednesday night at Ra'anana's Lev Ha Park, when he demanded that the judges decision be overruled.

After beating Mexican and Brazilian opponents in the early rounds, 25-year-old Levy appeared on the mat to face local judoka Ya'akov Dabul in the semi-final.

Two minutes into the fight, Levy delivered an ippon but to his surprise, the point and fight were awarded to the Israeli.

"I had heard of a bias towards Israeli athletes but it was obvious that the ippon was mine," said Levy who reacted by sitting down in protest. Leaving the mat would have been a sign of his acknowledging the result.

"The stadium was in outrage," recalls the softly-spoken Levy.

Coaches from South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Brazil and Latvia, approached the judges to reverse the decision while the hall erupted in shouts of "No, it's wrong." A South African judoka even got on the mat and sat down next to Levy in solidarity while the crowd chanted for Levy to remain seated.

"It was fairly humbling," said Levy, "here were coaches like Olympian Mark Burger from Canada putting their reputation on the line for me."

After 30 minutes during which the judges refused to view videos filmed by the visiting teams, the observer ruled on a three-minute re-fight.

"The official line was that in the spirit of the Maccabiah there would be a re-fight," says Levy, "no apologies were proffered."

Levy proceeded to win the re-fight after Dabul was penalized for being too passive.

In the final, Levy was beaten by ippon by Dmitri Izenkov, a Russian now living in America, but for Levy, the emotional victory meant everything.

"I came here alone, with no coach or other team members, and the support of the other teams before and during the fight reflects for me the true Maccabiah spirit. In four days I've been adopted by every team and I've made some lifelong friends. It's been pretty magnificent."

Levy is traveling the world to hone his judo skills for Sydney 2000.

One of the two flag-waving New Zealand supporters in the crowd, Auckland University professor David Brock, an ex-South African, was filled with admiration for his native country. "For the first time in my memory, I'm proud of my ex-countrymen," he said.

Krohn's happy rugby wanderings

By JOEL GORDIN

The reigning Maccabiah rugby champions, South Africa, were unable to recruit the services of international fly-half Joel Stransky, hero of the 1995 World Cup final.

However, at least one other international is taking part in the rugby contest - Stuart Krohn, the USA's No. 8.

Krohn is a "happy wanderer" of rugby. He learned the game at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He then traveled to France where he studied at the University of Toulouse - and played rugby for the local club. After that, he drifted down to South Africa where he played for the Rover club in Durban - together with Stransky.

After two years he "followed the rugby wind" and went off to New Zealand where he represented the powerful North Shore team. His next stop was in Hong Kong where he captained the former colony in the most recent world seven-a-side tournament.

Under his leadership Hong Kong was placed 10th. He was later also chosen for the XV team.

"In all the countries in which I lived I took on odd jobs which were secondary to my rugby career," he recalls.

In Hong Kong, though, he was "more respectable," teaching physical education at a French school. "I knew French from days in Toulouse and I bluffed my way through PE," he recalls with a grin.

He has always been a practicing Jew and he gladly answered the USA's call to join the Maccabiah squad. He says that the standard is much higher than he imagined and he's having a terrific time.

"It'll be even better when we beat South Africa the final," he stated confidently.

In last night's action, Israel put up a good fight against South Africa, losing by a narrow 16-9. The USA thrashed Argentina 42-11 and France trounced Canada 41-0.

Today's schedule
Basketball - men Wingate Institute: 14:00 Turkey-Germany, 16:00 Mexico-Georgia.
Basketball - women Wingate: 12:00 Canada-Uruguay.
Beach volleyball - men Netanya Beach: 09:00 5th and 6th place, 10:00 semifinals, 14:00 3rd and 4th place, 16:00 finals.
Beach volleyball - women Netanya Beach: 11:00 USA-Israel, 15:00 final.
Bridge Jerusalem Gate Hotel: 10:00, 13:00, and 15:20.
Chess Jerusalem Gate Hotel: 15:00 round 4, 20:30 round 5.
Cricket Hadar Yosef Stadium: 10:00 India-S. Africa and Australia-Great Britain.
Field Hockey - men Hadar Yosef: 07:30 Great Britain-Israel.
Field Hockey - women Hadar Yosef: 09:00 Netherlands-S. Africa.
Golf Caesarea: from 08:00.
Handball Wingate: 14:30 Argentina-Brazil.
Ice Hockey Metulla, Canada Center: 11:00 Israel-Ukraine, 13:30 USA-Canada.
Karate TA University: 09:00-14:30.
Mini Soccer Winter Hall, Ramat Gan: 09:00 Croatia-Singapore, 10:30 France-Great Britain, 12:00

Canada-Israel, Tel Mond: 10:00 Austria-Argentina, 11:30 Mexico-Brazil, 13:00 Russia-Lithuania.
Rowing Sdot Yam: from 11:00.
Soccer Tel-Aviv University: 13:00 USA-Denmark and 15:00 Great Britain-France.
Softball Kibbutz Gezer: 09:00 Israel-Great Britain, 12:00 Mexico-Canada, 15:00 Panama-USA.
Squash Herzliya Squash Center: from 08:00.
Water Polo Wingate: 13:00 Brazil-Mexico and 14:30 Israel-Venezuela.
Table Tennis Beit Hacholim: from 10:00.
Tennis Ramat Hasharon: 09:00, 10:30, and 12:00.
Test-Pia Bowling Rishon Le Zion: 09:00-13:30.
Triathlon Cannel Beach, Haifa: 05:30.
Tomorrow's schedule
Basketball - men Jerusalem Hall, Netanya: 21:30 Australia-Canada, Ra'anana: 21:30 Hungary-Brazil.
Basketball - women Wingate: 21:30 Canada-Uruguay.
Handball - men 21:30 Argentina-Brazil.
Softball 21:30 Canada-Venezuela.
Squash Herzliya: 21:30.
Maccabiah Hotline: telephone 03-671-5999
Compiled by Ammanjah de Vries

Yesterday's results
Basketball (women) Israel 54, Canada 43.
Beach Volleyball (men) Israel 15, Brazil 8.
Field Hockey (men) S. Africa 4, Australia 1.
Field Hockey (women) The Netherlands 19, Israel 0.
Mini Soccer Canada 16, Singapore 1.
Lithuania 4, Austria 2.
Rowing Pairs: Gold-Israel, Silver-Israel, Bronze-USA. Singles: Gold-USA, Silver-Israel, Bronze-Israel. Teams: Gold-USA, Silver-Israel, Bronze-Canada.
Soccer The Netherlands 5, Germany 2.

Medal Count				
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	
Israel	32	20	22	
USA	11	10	14	
S. Africa	3	1	2	
Canada	2	1	3	
Hungary	1	2	1	
Australia	1	1	1	
Brazil	1	1	1	
France	1	1	1	
Venezuela	1	1	1	
Belgium	1	1	1	
Russia	1	2	2	
Britain	1	1	2	
Netherlands	1	1	1	
Chile	1	1	1	
Croatia	1	1	1	
Mexico (excluding athletics)	1	1	1	

Norman, Couples surviving at windswept British Open



Tiger Woods (Reuters)

TROON, Scotland (AP) - Picking up birdies on the front nine and withstanding a fierce wind on the back, Greg Norman and Fred Couples survived two-faced Royal Troon yesterday for the early lead at the British Open.

Joining them at 2-under-par 69 was Justin Leonard, whose training in windswept Texas came in handy on a sunny day in which gusts off the Irish Sea provided both pleasure and punishment.

With the wind at their back on the front nine, Couples and Norman each made five birdies. Then they got to the 10th tee, the first of eight closing holes into a wind so strong the 450-yard par-4s were unreachable in two.

"Being 5 under after nine, I knew I was going to make some bogeys, so I just tried to hang in there," Couples said.

He took three bogeys and avoided three more with par putts.

Couples' 4-foot par putt on the 18th slid by on the right, giving him a 69 and great peace of mind.

"I'm thrilled to death to be under par," said Couples, who hasn't finished better than 32nd since the Masters.

Norman was at 4-under par after rolling in an 8-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole, and he remained there after saving par on the 463-yard 11th hole, playing as a par 4 and providing the most daunting tee shot at Royal Troon.

But he bogeyed the 13th hole, a 465-yard par 4, when his 5-iron landed in the thick, deceptive rough right of the green.

Norman made par-saving putts on the next two holes, but ran out of them on the 18th when his 10-footer turned left of the hole.

"Believe me, I'm delighted," Norman said. "It was a long, hard day today, and we've got another three long, hard days to go." Leonard eagled the 577-yard sixth hole, hitting a 5-iron

to 20 feet and holing the putt. He made the turn at only 2 under, but then shot a brilliant even-par 35 on the back to share the early lead.

"I putted beautifully today, and I stayed real patient on the back nine, because I realized there were some greens I just wasn't going to get to," Leonard said.

And it didn't figure to get any easier as the day grew long.

Moist conditions yielded to a drier wind, which was making it even more difficult to get the ball close to the hole on downwind approaches that ran up to the green.

Tiger Woods was 1 under through eight downwind holes. He drove into the greenside bunker on the 364-yard first hole, but blasted through the green into another pot bunker and had to save par.

He made birdies at both par 5s, reachable by just about everyone today, and then tried the driver on the 402-yard seventh hole. Again, the ball found a pot bunker short of the green, but he missed a 7-foot birdie putt.

Jim Furyk and Ireland's Darren Clarke were at 4 under and just starting out the back nine.

Bernhard Langer was 3 under through eight holes. Defending champion Tom Lehman was at 2 under through six holes and three-time British Open champion Nick Faldo was even-par through five holes.

Norman, who missed the cut at the Masters and the US Open this year, is a two-time winner at the British Open. He lost in a playoff the last time it was played at Royal Troon, and has finished out of the top 20 just once at the Open since 1983.

"It's a matter of playing how you know how to play," Norman said. "I like to chase the ball around, but I also like to hit it up in the air. There's a diversity of ways you can play it, and Royal Troon showed that today."

One stroke back in the clubhouse was Argentina's Angel Cabrera, who shot a 1-under 70 after a back nine of 35. Also at 70 was Davis Love III, who birdied four of the first six holes but had three bogeys on the back, and Andrew Magee.

Tom Watson didn't hit a single green in regulation on the back nine, where he lost three shots and finished at even-par 71, tied with Ian Woosnam.

Those who managed to shoot par on the back avoided disaster - Jack Nicklaus pulled it off and was at 73.

Banin joins Brescia

By DEREK FATTAL

Israel national soccer squad captain Tal Banin became the first Israeli player to join what is arguably the best league in the world, Italy Serie A when he signed a three-year contract with newly promoted Brescia yesterday.

Midfielder Banin was the toast of the northern Italian industrial city yesterday, and received a warm reception from both the townsfolk and the local gentlemen of the press. The Israeli midfielder who captained Hapoel Haifa over the last three seasons is no stranger to the European scene, having spent a year with the then-newly promoted French first division outfit Cannes during the 1993-94 campaign. Banin's task with Brescia will be to keep the club in the top flight, no easy task when the opponents include the likes of Juventus, AC Milan and Internazionale. The team has been relegated twice from the Serie A in the last five years.

Ronen Harazi will head for his new Spanish club Salamanca next Thursday after all. The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday lifted the restraint order preventing him from leaving the country, despite the opposition of the tax authorities, who have come down heavily on Harazi and other players associated with Beter Jerusalem. The judge ordered Harazi's passport to be returned, on condition that the player post a NIS 50,000 bond, supported by a guarantee from Jerusalem building contractor Benny Cohen.

Bases-loaded walk lifts Israel past Panama

By ELIEZER PINCHOVSKI and RICHARD DUFFY

Israel won a thriller last night when Panama's pitcher, Eddie Zebede walked in the winning run with the bases loaded in the sixth inning, helping Israel to a 4-2 win at Kibbutz Gezer.

Clutch hits by Menachem Pinchovski and Howie Hirsch sparked Israel's rally.

Panama took the lead in the second with two unearned runs. Israel came back in the third to tie the game with clutch singles by Tal Knafo and Ari Kanterewitz.

Failing to take advantage of numerous scoring opportunities, Israel stranded nine runners, in addition to some sloppy base running.

Israel's winning pitcher, Ami Baron closed the door on Panama in the top of the seventh.

Argentina 1, Mexico 0
In an extra inning game (nine innings) Argentina beat Mexico 1-0.

The winning run was walked in in the bottom of the ninth. Once again Alan Rozenblum was dominating on the mound for Argentina striking out 16 and walking only two.

USA 19, Great Britain 0
The USA controlled the game from the outset. A combination of solid hitting by the US and Great Britain's inexperience on the field led to the final score of 19-0.

Dave Blackburn continued his consecutive hitless inning streak, which stands at eleven. Great Britain managed to get only two runners on base while thirteen batters struck out. Jeremy Spear and Scott Harroff both homered for the US.

In a late game, Canada beat Venezuela 12-0 in five innings.

McGwire, Martinez locked in HR battle

OAKLAND (AP) - Mark McGwire hit his 33rd and 34th homers, regaining the major league lead and moving past Joe DiMaggio on the career list, as the Oakland Athletics defeated the Kansas City Royals 11-3 Wednesday night.

McGwire's three-run blast off reliever Mike Perez in the fourth inning tied him with Tino Martinez of the Yankees, who hit his 32nd and 33rd homers in New York's 11-5 win Wednesday over the Chicago White Sox.

The two homers moved McGwire past DiMaggio into 42nd place on the career list with 363 home runs. Baltimore's Cal Ripken Jr. is in 41st place with 364 career homers.

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 0
Darren Oliver pitched his second career shutout and Will Clark doubled twice and drove in three runs for host Texas.

Oliver (6-9) scattered eight hits in his first complete game and shutout this season. The right-hander, whose other shutout also came against Toronto on June 8, 1996, struck out four and walked just one. He is 5-0 with a 0.95

ERA in his career against the Blue Jays.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Marlins 5, Dodgers 1

Kevin Brown pitched his first career one-hitter, leading Florida to a home win and sending the Dodgers to just their second loss in 13 games this month.

Brown (9-6), who no-hit San Francisco on June 10, faced just two batters over the minimum, allowing a leadoff single to left by Raul Mondesi in the fifth. Brown then retired his final 15 batters.

He struck out eight and walked one in his fourth complete game of the season. The Dodgers' run was unearned; Brown has allowed one earned run or none in 10 of 20 starts this season.

Phillies 6, Expos 0
Curt Schilling pitched a four-hitter for his first shutout this season and Scott Rolen homered and drove in two runs for host Philadelphia.

Schilling (11-8), involved in trade rumors with several teams, struck out seven and did not walk a batter in his fourth complete game. The right-hander, leads the NL with 176 strikeouts.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	57	34	.625	-
New York	53	39	.576	4 1/2
Toronto	43	47	.478	3 1/2
Detroit	43	48	.473	14
Boston	41	52	.441	17
Central Division				
Cleveland	49	38	.563	-
Chicago	47	46	.511	4 1/2
Minnesota	43	46	.483	7
St. Louis	42	51	.440	11
Kansas City	37	51	.420	2 1/2
West Division				
Seattle	52	41	.559	-
Anaheim	50	42	.543	1 1/2
Texas	46	46	.500	5 1/2
Oakland	38	57	.400	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	60	34	.638	-
Florida	54	38	.587	5
New York	51	42	.548	8 1/2
Montreal	50	42	.543	9
Philadelphia	27	64	.297	1 1/2
Central Division				
Houston	48	47	.505	-
Pittsburgh	47	48	.505	2
St. Louis	45	48	.484	2
Cincinnati	41	51	.446	5 1/2
Chicago	38	55	.415	8 1/2
West Division				
San Francisco	53	41	.564	-
Los Angeles	50	44	.532	3
Colorado	44	51	.463	9 1/2
San Diego	43	51	.457	10

Wednesday's AL results: Oakland 11, Kansas City 3; NY 11, Chicago 5; Texas 6, Toronto 0; Boston 4, Baltimore 1.

Wednesday's NL results: Florida 5, Los Angeles 1; Philadelphia 6, Montreal 0; Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 3; Chicago 6, NY 5; Atlanta 2, Rockies 1; Houston 8, San Francisco 1; San Diego 4, St. Louis 3.

Bezeq, workers agree to strike talks

By JUDY SIEGEL
and news agencies

The Bezeq workers committee and management agreed last night to begin negotiations within 48 hours to end the strike that began earlier this week. Under the agreement, workers will attend to urgent problems.

Thousands of Bezeq workers went on strike Monday over moves by the management to sell 12.5 percent of the company to Merrill Lynch, union officials said.

The strike triggered brief sympathy strikes by tens of thousands of workers around the country, including airport and postal workers on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, despite promises this week by Communications Minister Limor Livnat that "no phone user will suffer" due to lack of knowledge that Bezeq International (BI) was charging the previously high overseas rates for those who did not register with the company, those who choose not to register will pay 15% higher retroactive rates when they call 15 major countries.

The ministry yesterday approved BI's proposed rate proposal for those who register and those who do not. Those who register will enjoy not only the

60% reduction on rates that preceded the era of competition with Barak and Golden Lines - but also 15% below that.

If they sign up for the Keshet Ham program (choosing two frequent overseas numbers), users will get an additional 12% discount for those numbers. Those who do not register will have the lower rates charged retroactively to July 8.

"This is the optimal situation we could get," ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said. However, those who decline to register in BI's database will have to pay 15% above that enjoyed by those who do register for calls made to 15 major countries. For calls to

the rest of the world, the rates will be identical for those who register and those who do not.

The ministry has not announced any measures to "punish" BI for charging the previous high rates during the first week of competition for those customers who dialed 00 or 014 without having previously registered.

Among BI's lower rates for those who register are 68 agorot (including VAT) per minute to the US from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 92 agorot from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m., and 98 agorot including VAT to Britain or Germany from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and NIS 1.22 from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m.



Tatiana Susskin enters Jerusalem District Court yesterday with her lawyer.

(Brian Hovav)

Susskin says she has no regrets

Wearing a Kach emblem at the opening of her trial, Tatiana Susskin said yesterday she did not regret drawing Mohammed as a pig and triggering angry Moslem protests around the world.

"I don't think he [Mohammed] was a pig, but the way they [Moslems] use him is a piggy way," Susskin, 26, told reporters in the courtroom.

Thin and tired-looking after several days of a fast protesting her treatment in jail, Susskin sported a yellow T-shirt with a clenched fist inside a Star of David, a symbol of the extremist Kach group. Susskin said she drew the emblem on the shirt.

Susskin has said she pasted the pig leaflets on the shutters of Arab-owned shops in Hebron on June 27 to protest Palestinian rioting in the city. The leaflets set off violent protests here.

Outside the courtroom, Susskin held up a new drawing she made in jail showing two pigs, one throwing a firebomb and the second standing on what appeared to be the Koran, with its hooves trailing blood. The two pigs, one wearing an Arab head-

dress, apparently are meant to represent Palestinian rioters in Hebron. Next to that scene, she drew herself, lying on a bare cot in a jail cell, the left hand shackled to the foot of the cot and the right hand drawing a Star of David on the cell wall. Susskin said she did not regret what she did, and said Arabs should be put on trial for inciting against Jews.

The Jerusalem District Court postponed the trial after a brief opening session so Susskin can undergo a psychiatric examination requested both by the defense and prosecution. Susskin's lawyer Shmuel Casper said her behavior raised questions about her mental state. Should Susskin be found fit to stand trial, Casper said he will argue that she was protected under freedom of speech statutes. Yesterday Casper also submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court against Susskin being remanded until the trial's end.

The next trial hearing is August 3. Susskin has been charged with inciting to racism, insulting Islam, supporting a terrorist group, and endangering lives by throwing a stone at an Arab driver. (News agencies)

MK: Disband Ramat Hovav

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who heads a Knesset sub-committee dealing with the Ramat Hovav industrial site and toxic waste dump, is calling for the Ramat Hovav Industrial Area Council to be disbanded.

Nudelman, an environmental economist by profession, issued the request following a report in Ha'aretz yesterday on a survey which recorded gases at levels which could endanger workers' lives. In a separate item, the paper reported that the Ramat Hovav

Industrial Area Council had decided to allocate \$200,000 of this year's budget to a campaign to improve its image.

Nudelman demanded that Interior Minister Eli Suissa disband the council and appoint a temporary one instead. He sent a copy of his request to Environment Minister Raphael Eitan.

Ha'aretz quoted a letter by the head doctor of the Health Ministry's southern region, Dr. Ilana Bellmaker, who said the high concentrations of methylamine and butylamine found in the area of the evaporation ponds at Ramat

Hovav could present an immediate threat to workers there.

The initial tests were carried out for the Environment Ministry in November 1995 by the Ness Ziona Biological Institute. Later tests did not relate to all the previous findings of the methylamine and butylamine concentrations, but discovered two other gases at levels above the permitted standard.

In response, Moshe Dayan, in charge of public relations for the council, said two more surveys are being carried out by different bodies and the results are expected in the coming days.

Warning strike at hospitals Monday

By JUDY SIEGEL

Some 20,000 staffers at all government general hospitals will hold a one-day warning strike on Monday. The reduced emergency schedule will include nurses, pharmacists, X-ray technicians, microbiologists, biochemists and maintenance and administrative workers.

The unions, who changed their plans for an open-ended strike, accuse hospital managements of unilateral violations of their contracts. As a result of Treasury cuts, hospital managements have decided to close down staff cafeterias from July 20, halt the use of security companies, cancel workers' payments such as car allowances and holiday gifts to staffers and pensioners.

The union chiefs said that if the budget problems continue, hospital directors will even stop supplying food to patients, distributing clean laundry and admitting new dialysis and oncology patients.

The one-day strike will cancel non-emergency operations and diagnostic institutes will be closed. Intensive care units, emergency rooms, hospital pharmacies, X-ray institutes, cleaning services and kitchens will function on a reduced Shabbat schedule. Blood banks will provide only emergency supplies.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza did not justify the planned strike and called on staff to work normally, but he expressed his understanding of their difficulties. Health Ministry sources said that in a meeting between Matza and Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, the latter expressed his understanding of the high-priority needs of the health system.

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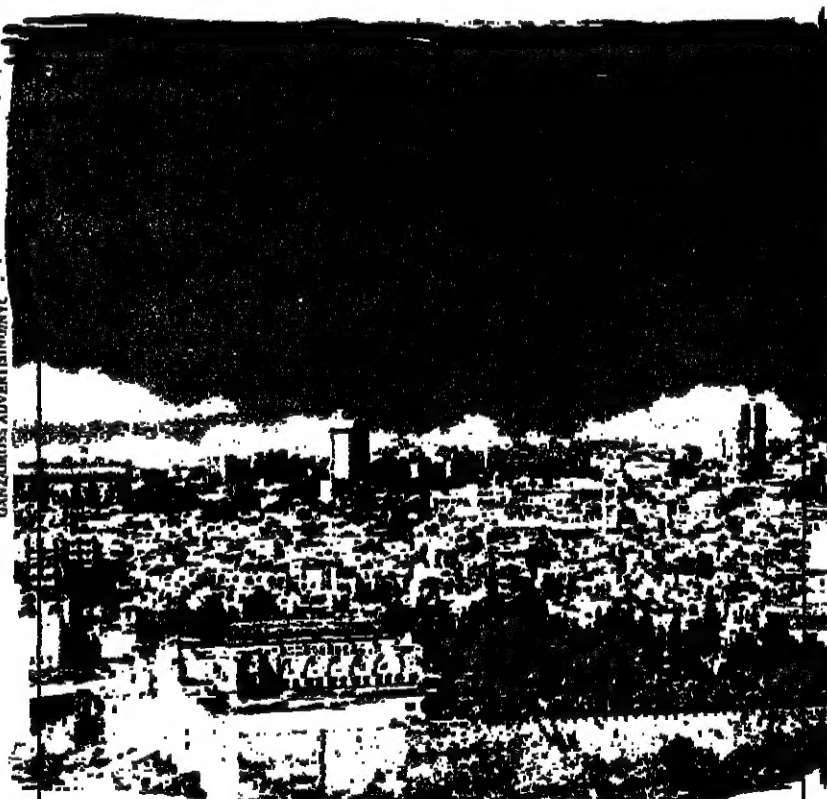


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Afula 21-33	Samar 19-28
Tel Aviv 24-29	Jerusalem 18-28
Beer Sheva 21-33	Dead Sea 27-30
Eilat 25-40	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures. Shabbat: Rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	14	22	cloudy
Barin	18	24	cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	18	clear
Cairo	22	34	cloudy
Copenhagen	15	22	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	24	cloudy
Geneva	17	24	rain
Helsinki	18	20	rain
Hong Kong	28	30	clear
Jakarta	26	30	clear
London	16	20	cloudy
Los Angeles	19	28	cloudy
Madrid	19	28	cloudy
Moscow	21	28	clear
Montreal	16	20	cloudy
New York	18	28	clear
Nice	19	28	clear
Paris	17	24	cloudy
Rome	18	28	clear
Stockholm	17	24	cloudy
Tokyo	19	28	cloudy
Toronto	18	28	cloudy
Vienna	18	27	cloudy
Zurich	15	24	rain

Maccabiah consolation fax service

The Postal Authority yesterday opened a free, round-the-clock fax service for those who want to send condolences to the Maccabiah teams who suffered fatalities and injuries in the bridge collapse. Authority director-general Moshe Tery said that one need only call 171 to leave a message (up to 20 words), which will be brought by messengers directly to the athletes in Kfar Maccabiah. The service will be in effect until the end of the Maccabiah. Judy Siegel

Barak: No unity government

By MICHAEL VICKENBERG

Barak said yesterday that he would not form a unity government with the Likud party. He said that the two parties had different visions for the future of the state and that a unity government would be a betrayal of the people's trust. He also said that he would continue to work for peace and stability in the region.

Dentists' AIDS guideline updated

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has updated its guidelines for dentists regarding AIDS and hepatitis B. The new guidelines emphasize the importance of proper sterilization techniques and the use of disposable instruments. They also stress the need for dentists to wear protective gear and to avoid contact with blood and other body fluids.

The updated guidelines are part of a series of measures taken by the Health Ministry to prevent the spread of AIDS and hepatitis B. They include requirements for dentists to receive regular training in infection control and to keep detailed records of their patients' medical history. The guidelines also specify the types of instruments that must be used and the methods for their sterilization.